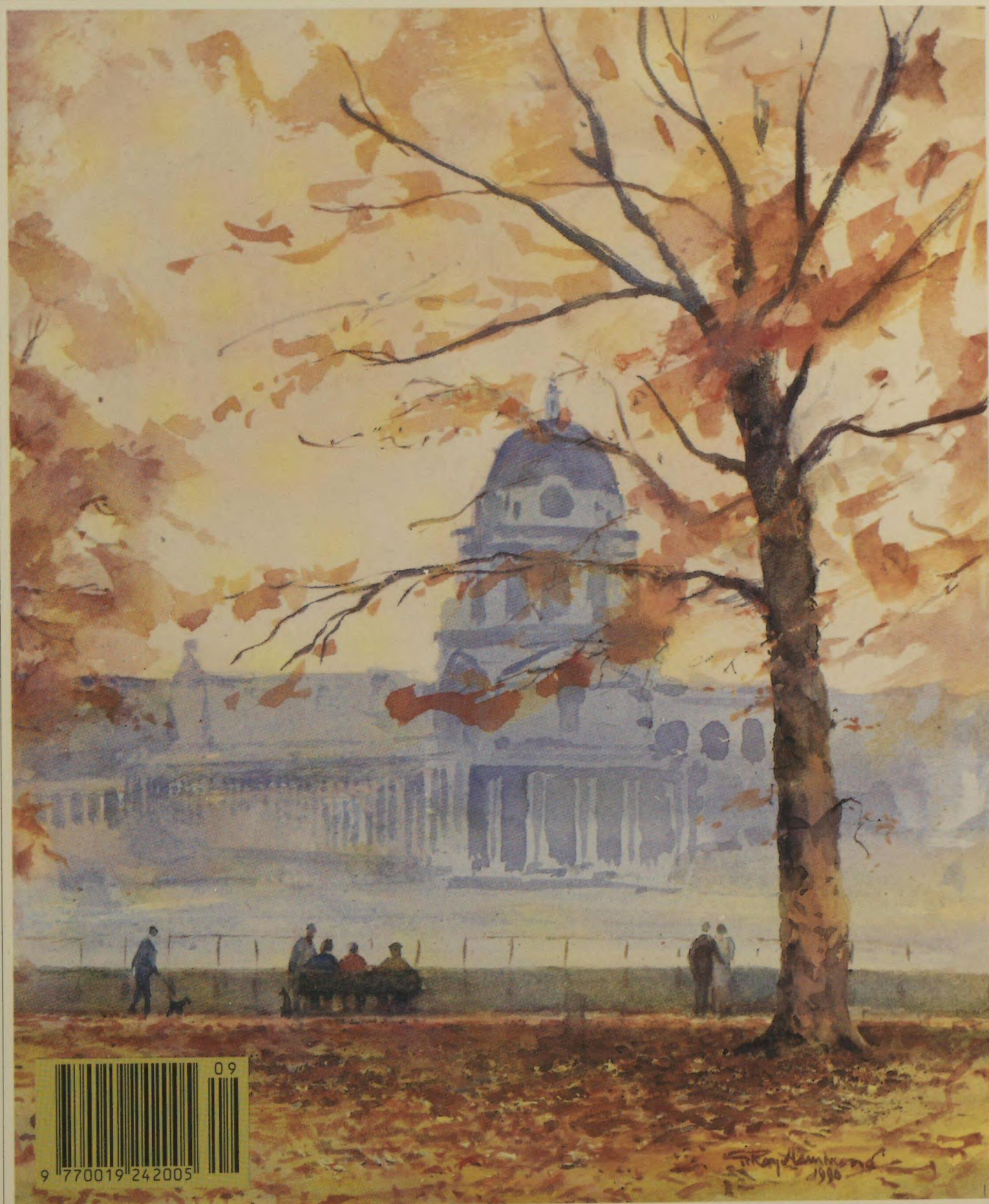


# THE ILLUSTRATED

# LONDON NEWS



09





Quality in an age of change.



Autumn, 1990  
Volume 278 No 7096

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Mercedes-Benz 300TE 24 fitted with optional Sportline seating and handling package.

## The latest line in performance cars from Mercedes-Benz

The body line says estate. The versatility says estate. So do the load space and weight-sensitive, self-levelling suspension.

But the 24-valve 3.0-litre engine says something altogether different because the Mercedes-Benz 300TE-24 is an altogether more exotic machine.

It's an estate that swallows not only sofas and wardrobes, but the 0-60mph sprint in under 7.9 seconds. An estate that not only can seat seven people, but will reach, where conditions allow, 139mph (manufacturer's figures).

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The 300TE-24 is an estate whose rich mix of abilities is more than rare. It is unrivalled. It is the only car on the market that will accommodate dozens of cubic feet of cargo while putting 231bhp under your right foot.

A gloves-off performance machine that also makes sense for every one of a dozen more purely practical reasons.

And, if you wish, the 300TE-24 can be harnessed to the Sportline handling pack-

age: uprated springs, 20% stiffer shock absorbers, more direct steering, wider wheels and high performance 205/60 VR-rated tyres.



There are Sportline seats, too, which anchor the driver and front passenger even more securely against strong cornering forces. And the smaller, Sportline steering wheel, like the gearchange, is covered in soft, stitched, nappa leather.

Welcome, in other words, to the complete driver's car, the complete people carrier, and the complete all-purpose work-horse.

### PIONEERING SAFETY

The class-leading 300TE-24 is the complete automotive companion in other ways, too. As an exemplar of safety, for instance. The six estates (five petrol and one diesel), like every Mercedes, are built around a rigid safety cell and impact-absorbing crumple zones (40-year-old Mercedes-Benz patents that have only more recently been mimicked by other car makers).



And the environment friendly 200TE, 230TE, 300TE and 300TE-24 are all fitted with closed-loop three-way catalytic converters as standard.

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tons towing capability (the sort of reassuring muscle you'll appreciate when your cargo is even more precious than your 300TE-24).

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# NELSON'S COLUMN

## THE HAPPY PORTRAITIST



Michael Noakes in his studio and, below, his portrait of the Prime Minister painted for the Grocers' Company. He is now working on a life-size portrait.

Portrait painters are not generally the sunniest of artists. They tend to feel isolated, they worry about getting both a likeness and a fair suggestion of their subject's character and, though it is fiendishly difficult to do well, fellow artists often curl their lips at the very idea of portraiture. John Singer Sargent once said that every time he painted a portrait he lost a friend, but one of today's most active and successful portraitists, Michael Noakes, clearly does not have that problem. He painted the lovely picture of the Queen Mother in her blue hat which was used as the centrepiece of the *ILN's* collage of her life in our last issue, and has also painted many of the other royals, including the Queen, several times, as well as political leaders, captains of industry, masters of Oxbridge colleges and top people of all kinds.

Noakes, who has a studio in his large and elegant house in St John's Wood, is a happy portraitist, though he is at pains to emphasise that his life is not a doddle. "It's an extremely demanding area in which to work," he says.

"You're treading on eggshells and playing with dynamite all the time. It's all right to paint people at their best, but what shouldn't be done is to improve someone. You can't do cosmetic stuff, though in my time I think I have done, just as in my time I think I've also been beastly to people."



He believes people will take a fair amount of punishment from painters these days, much more than in previous generations. "There must be an element of the painter's own interpretation; that's what you pay for, though I don't think a painter ought to take over. The subject of the portrait is what it's about, not the painter."

He once painted a man whose wife hated the result. It might look like Ronald Reagan, she said, but it didn't look at all like her husband. "I had to reckon that she knew her husband better than I, and that I had misfired somewhere. I had to grit my teeth and do it again." This is not usual, though he admits to having done a portrait 18 times before getting it right.

His subjects generally like what he does, and seem to enjoy sitting for him. He is discreet and easy to talk to—one politician told him that he found his waffle very therapeutic—and it is not surprising to learn that at school he thought he was going to be either a priest or a comedian.

In fact after Downside he went to art college and began painting his portraits. Now 56, Noakes has never been without a commission, and currently has at least 10 portraits in hand. The subjects include the Princess Royal (a group portrait on her admission to the Company of Woolmen), the Duchess of Kent, Charles Price (former US Ambassador), Dr Max Perutz (commissioned by the Queen for the Royal Collection), Lord Charteris (Provost of Eton), and the Prime Minister.

The last is the most intriguing. Noakes painted Mrs Thatcher for the Grocers' Company earlier this year and told her he wanted to paint a portrait of her standing at the door of Number 10. "Do it," she said. It is not a commission and will probably not be for Mrs Thatcher since it is to be full-size, which means that, including the lintel and lantern, it will stand more than 11 feet tall. He plans to make the steps, canopy and lantern three-dimensional and introduce a *trompe l'oeil* element by breaking through the picture plane. He is not sure if it will work but he intends to have fun trying something that has not been done before.

As we got up to leave he politely asked if we wanted to use the loo. We were all right, thank you, but he took us there anyway to have a look at what must be a unique award for a portrait painter—a platinum disc. He received it for a portrait of Frank Sinatra used for the sleeve of one of the singer's best-selling records.

RICHARD DUDLEY SMITH

CAMERA PRESS



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# NELSON'S COLUMN

## NEW FILLIPS TO TRAVEL



*Charlie Waite's photograph of Barga cathedral with the Apuan Alps behind.*

For five years now the publishers George Philip, best known for their maps and atlases, have been quietly producing a series of succulent travel books about some of the most enchanting places in Europe. They began with the Loire and the Dordogne, moving on via Languedoc and Provence to

the Rhine and Tuscany. Next month they add Lombardy and Andalusia.

They call them Travel Guides but this classification is neither exact nor adequate. Though the text does have useful information buried within it, these guides do not strive to be Baedekers. You will not find tips for tired travellers or help about where to stay. There is no guidance on getting about, no information on changing currency, no hints on where to eat, no advice on how to approach the natives. Instead these books provide admirable introductions to, and wonderful souvenirs of, these agreeable parts of the world. The words are by different hands but the photography is all by Charlie Waite. Although there are signs that he has recently been rushed off his feet, Waite's photography gives the books their most delectable and memorable qualities.

The new volume on Lombardy has the advantage of encompassing the Italian Lakes, which are certainly among the most spectacular in Europe, as well as Milan, the Valtellina (the Alpine fringe in the north), and the fertile valley of the Po to the south—undoubtedly an area "replete

with interest and instruction", as an early Baedeker explained. It is also an area to delight and intrigue, as the author John Flower describes, and as Charlie Waite's photographs confirm.

Andalusia is totally different. Inaccessible but savagely beautiful, it will attract a more intrepid traveller than the normal visitor to the Italian lakes. This is a unique part of Europe, full of Moorish influence and in many ways more African than Spanish. The author, Hugh Seymour-Davies, suggests that in addition to the spectacular scenery, Andalusia offers the visitor something else—something to do with the people, who exhibit a rhythm and style of life which is hard to find elsewhere. It is, he believes, the rhythm of the past.

The publishers are also planning to produce two other travel books in October—one on the hill-towns of Italy and the other on the gardens of Europe—and next year they will publish four more titles in the Travel Guide series, on Umbria, Veneto, Castile and Brittany. It is a programme that should cause travellers everywhere to leap happily from their armchairs.

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\*Comparative figures for the corresponding 1989 period.  
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# WINDOW ON THE WORLD

JUNE 30

The West German D-Mark was brought in as legal tender for East Germany as the economic and monetary union of the two countries came into effect.

JULY 2

At the opening of the 28th Soviet Communist party congress in Moscow, President Gorbachev warned that his country faced dark times if the process of *perestroika* was slowed. On the following day Yegor Ligachev was applauded when he attacked Gorbachev's policies.

1,426 pilgrims died in a tunnel leading to Mecca when a breakdown in the air-conditioning system caused a stampede.

Imelda Marcos, widow of the former President of the Philippines, was found not guilty on charges of fraud at the end of her trial in New York. Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi businessman who was charged with aiding her, was also acquitted.

JULY 3

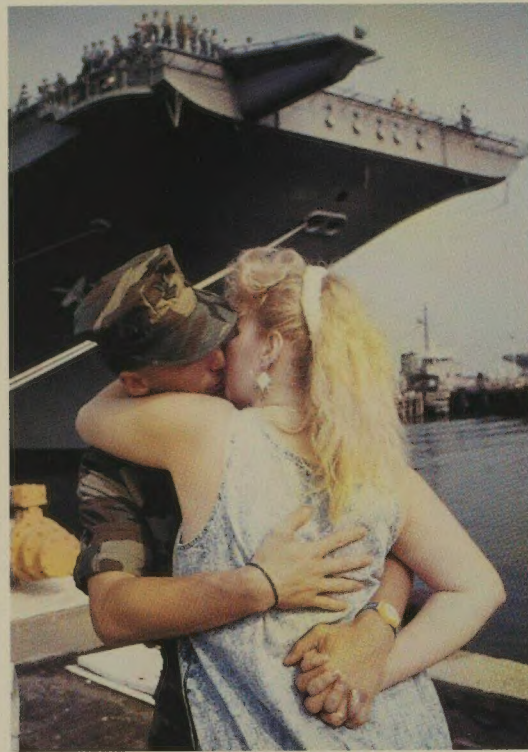
Hundreds of Albanians seeking escape to the West took refuge in western embassies in the capital, Tirana. On July 5 the Foreign Ministry announced that all the refugees, who by this time were reported to number at least 3,000, would be allowed to leave.

House prices in the UK fell by 5.3 per cent during the year ending in June, according to the Nationwide Anglia building society.

Arthur Scargill, President of the National Union of Mineworkers, was cleared of charges of using union funds for his own purposes but was found to have run secret accounts during the miners' strike. The report, by Gavin Lightman QC, also said that Scargill had sought financial aid from Libya and had arranged personal loans for officials without the union's permission. On July 19 the National Union of Mineworkers decided to sue Scargill and the general secretary, Peter Heathfield, to recover money paid by foreign miners in support of the strike.



LESSTONE SYGMA



DENIS FINLEY SYGMA

All the armaments of modern war were deployed around the Gulf in August following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. After seizing control of that country within hours of its dawn attack on August 2, the Iraqis began massing their tanks along the border with Saudi Arabia, prompting an appeal for help that was quickly answered by the United States, Britain, Egypt, Syria and Pakistan, all of whom despatched troops, aircraft and other weaponry to the area.

At the same time a naval blockade of the Gulf was imposed by ships from the US, Britain,

France and the Soviet Union, with others on the way from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands and West Germany. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq responded by refusing to allow westerners to leave Iraq and Kuwait, and by moving some of them to military areas to act as hostages.

In the initial invasion of Kuwait it was reported that some 200 Kuwaitis had been killed, including a brother and some other members of the family of the Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah. The Emir himself, together with the Crown Prince,

escaped to Saudi Arabia. Iraqi forces installed an "interim free government", which they said had invited Iraqi's help after overthrowing the Kuwaiti government. In Washington the Kuwaiti ambassador appealed for US military help but President Bush, while not ruling it out, said he hoped for an Arab solution. In Baghdad, Saddam warned that Kuwait would be turned into a graveyard if any outside power intervened.

The attack was condemned at an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council, which passed a resolution calling for the immedi-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

British sailors ready for action on board HMS Battleaxe, left, one of the ships sent into the Gulf in support of the UN's embargo on trade with Iraq. US President Bush, far right, declared that his country would defend Saudi Arabia and other Gulf allies from attack by Iraq, while the man who caused all the trouble, President Saddam Hussein, appeared on Iraqi television with a number of foreign detainees, whom he described as "guests", including a five-year-old English boy, Stuart Lockwood. British, American and other nationals were held as hostages in many parts of Iraq and Kuwait.





ate and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The Soviet Union, China, Cuba and the non-aligned countries joined the western nations in voting for the motion. In addition the US, Britain and France froze Kuwaiti assets to keep them out of Iraqi hands, and the Soviet Union joined other major powers in suspending arms shipments to Iraq. The US also banned the import of Iraqi oil. The crisis pushed up oil prices and provoked substantial falls in stock market prices in the world's main financial centres.

King Hussein of Jordan tried

unsuccessfully to mediate. Having been to see Saddam he travelled to the US, but an attempt to link the removal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait with an Israeli withdrawal from its occupied territories did not meet with American approval. The US and Britain also rejected an offer from Saddam to allow American and British nationals to leave if their troops were pulled out, if an undertaking was given that Iraq would not be attacked, and if the economic blockade was lifted. Some foreigners managed to escape across the borders, one Briton was shot dead in making

the attempt. The UN Security Council called on Iraq to allow foreign nationals to leave, and sent two UN officials to Baghdad.

Meanwhile the build-up of forces in the Gulf continued. On August 17 two Iraqi tankers were intercepted by US warships and shadowed by them after they failed to stop when warning shots were fired across their bows. President Saddam, having split the Arab world, appealed to Arabs over the heads of their rulers to conduct a holy war against foreigners attacking Muslims, but the result of his actions was more of an unholy mess.

*The US was quick to respond to an appeal for help from Saudi Arabia, beginning to send naval, air and ground forces to the area on August 7. The aircraft carrier Kennedy, above, carrying 9,000 men and escorted by a battle fleet of seven ships, sailed from Norfolk, Virginia, on August 15. President Bush said that forces were being sent to defend the Gulf states and not to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait. He hoped to accomplish that by economic sanctions. But in a speech on August 20 he warned that the Gulf crisis would be resolved only through planning, patience and some American sacrifice.*



ASSOCIATED PRESS



FRANK POONER



JULY 1

The Prime Minister was visited in Downing Street by Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, who came away, he said, full of hope for the future of South Africa. He added that Mrs Thatcher was someone he could do business with, and it was clear that neither he nor Mrs Thatcher had dwelt on the row following Mandela's call for the British government to negotiate with the IRA.

England was defeated in the semi-finals of the World Cup by West Germany after a penalty shoot-out. The result was followed by violence in many parts of Britain, in which three people died. In the other semi-final Italy was beaten by Argentina, also on penalties.

JULY 5

The House of Lords voted, by 155 to 83, in favour of compulsory dog licensing, despite strong Government opposition.

JULY 6

A two-day summit meeting of Nato leaders in London concluded by issuing what was called the London Declaration, outlining a new military strategy reduc-

ing the reliance on nuclear weapons and promising that Nato would never be the first to use force. It also recognised the need to extend the hand of friendship to eastern countries who were formerly adversaries in the cold war. US President George Bush, who attended the meeting, described the London Declaration as a historic turning point.

JULY 8

Albanian police sealed off the diplomatic area of Tirana as the number of refugees camping in western embassies grew to nearly 5,000. On July 13 they were ferried out of the country, the majority to West Germany and others to Italy, France, Hungary and Turkey.

West Germany beat Argentina 1-0 in the World Cup final.

Stefan Edberg of Sweden beat Boris Becker of West Germany in five sets to win the men's final at Wimbledon. On the previous day Martina Navratilova had beaten Zina Garrison to win her ninth women's title.

*The US military convoy transporting chemical weapons from West Germany for eventual destruction.*



*Graham Gooch, the England captain, scored 333 and 123 in the first Test against India, which England won.*

JULY 10

President Gorbachev was re-elected leader of the Soviet Communist Party. On the following day his favoured candidate for deputy leadership, Vladimir Ivashkevich, defeated Yegor Ligachev in an election which was regarded as crucial to Mr Gorbachev's continued control of the party. However, a split was revealed on July 12 when Boris Yeltsin, radical President of the Russian Parliament, resigned from the Communist Party, telling delegates at the party congress in Moscow that he could not serve the party's interests alone.

After four days of anti-government rioting in Nairobi, during which at least 20 people were killed, the British Government warned its citizens to exercise care when visiting Kenya. The US Government declared that Kenya was unsafe to visit.

The European football authority, UEFA, lifted its ban on English clubs playing in Europe.

England beat New Zealand in the third Test by 114 runs to win the series.

JULY 11

After three days of discussions in Houston, Texas, leaders of the Group of Seven industrial democracies the USA, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada reached a compromise agreement on agricultural subsidies which would make progressive reductions in the protection of farming. The leaders also agreed to send a fact-finding mission to the Soviet Union in response to President Gorbachev's plea for economic help.

JULY 14

Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of

Trade and Industry, resigned in the wake of a row following the publication in the *Spectator* of an interview in which he accused the Germans of rushing to take over British, with sovereignty being handed over to "17 unselected reject politicians". Though he subsequently withdrew the remarks which Mrs Thatcher told the House of Commons did not represent either her views or the Government's, the reaction in Europe finally forced his resignation. In his more moderately worded letter to the Prime Minister he reiterated his concern that the proposal for economic and monetary union in the Community "would be a disaster both for Great Britain and for the wider Europe in which I passionately believe". He was succeeded by Peter Lilley, formerly Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

JULY 15

After failing to finish in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, Nigel Mansell announced that he would retire from motor racing at the end of the season.

Margaret Lockwood, the stage and film actress, died in London, aged 73.

JULY 16

President Gorbachev announced that the Soviet Union would be prepared to accept a decision by united Germany to belong to Nato. He also agreed to withdraw the 350,000 Soviet troops stationed in East Germany within three or four years. In return the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, agreed to reduce the strength of a combined German army to 370,000.

An earthquake in the Philippines, registered at 7.7 on the Richter scale, caused the deaths of more than 1,000 people in Manila and the surrounding area. President Aquino estimated the damage to property at around £300 million.



*Nick Faldo with Fanny, his caddy, lining up a putt at the Open at St Andrews, which he won by five strokes.*

Mrs Daphne Parish, the British nurse jailed in Iraq for helping the journalist Farzad Bazofi, who was hanged as a spy, was released.

The volume of retail sales in Britain fell by 2.8 per cent in June, suggesting that high interest rates were reducing demand.

The Parliament of the Ukraine, second largest of the Soviet republics, with a population of 52 million, voted by 355 to four to become a sovereign state within a renewed Soviet federation.

JULY 17

The law lords upheld the right of the Environment Secretary, Chris Patten, to cap the budgets of 21 local authorities, dismissing the appeals of the charge-capped councils with costs.

JULY 18

Health Secretary Kenneth Clarke announced in the Commons a two-year delay in implementing government plans for reforming community care for the elderly, disabled, mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

The US government revealed that it would be opening new contracts with Vietnam in an attempt to end the civil war in Cambodia.

British Telecom announced price changes that would increase phone charges for domestic customers by about 9 per cent from September.

JULY 19

The British Government proposed to increase support for local authority spending by £3,260 million, to cushion the impact of the poll tax and limit the average tax increase to £22 in 1991. The changes, announced by the

Environment Secretary, Chris Patten, were accompanied by a warning that the Government would use its powers to cap high-spending councils.

Two teenage British girls were arrested in Thailand on charges of attempting to smuggle out 67lb of heroin, valued at £4 million.

JULY 20

A time bomb planted by the IRA exploded in the Stock Exchange in the City of London, damaging the rear of the building and halting some trading for a period. No one was hurt.

JULY 22

The Board of British Film Classification refused to allow distribution of a Pakistani film, *International Guerrillas*, on the grounds that it criminally libelled the author Salman Rushdie. On August 18 the ban was lifted following an appeal by Mr Rushdie.

The British golfer Nick Faldo won the Open championship at St Andrews by five strokes.

JULY 23

Mrs Thatcher reshuffled some of her junior ministers, dismissing two (Peter Bottomley, the

Northern Ireland Transport Minister, and Michael Newton, junior Defence Minister). Other moves included the appointments of Francis Maude to the Treasury in place of Peter Lilley, Tristan Garel-Jones replacing Maude as Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Sir George Young to the Whips' Office (he had been sacked from the Government in 1986), David Mellor as Arts Minister, Angela Rumbold to the Home Office, Robert Jackson to Employment, Colin Moyal to Energy, and Peter Morrison to PPS to the Prime Minister.

President Bush nominated Judge David Souter, a conservative Federal Appeals Court Judge from New Hampshire, to join the US Supreme Court.

Britain was declared to be in a state of "absolute drought" following 15 consecutive days with less than 0.02 millimetres of rain.

JULY 24

Three policemen and a Roman Catholic nun, Sister Catherine Dunn, were killed when an IRA landmine exploded on a road outside Armagh in Northern Ireland. Their vehicles were travelling in opposite directions.

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The Prime Minister announced changes in the Civil List which would provide the Queen with £7,900,000 and other members of the royal family a total of £2,520,000 each year for the next 10 years. Mrs Thatcher said the figures allowed "for efficiency savings which the Royal Household are expecting to make from continuing improvements in management in line with the best financial practice."

Iraq moved some 30,000 troops to its disputed border with Kuwait, apparently to emphasize its determination to reduce oil production and force up prices. The United Nations, the US, UK and Arab leaders appealed for calm, and tension seemed to ease when Iraq and Kuwait agreed to talks following a meeting of Opec at which a target price for oil of \$21 a barrel was agreed. The increase, of \$3 a barrel, was to be achieved by restricting production, although Iraq continued to make financial and territorial demands.

Graeme Hick, the 24-year-old Worcestershire batsman, hit a century off 71 balls to become the youngest player to score 50 centuries in first-class cricket, beating Sir Donald Bradman by two years.

**JULY 25**  
Manpower cuts in the British armed forces were announced by Defence Secretary Tom King. He told the House of Commons that the reductions would total about 18 per cent (some 57,000 people) over the next five years. The British Army of the Rhine would be halved, the RAF's squadrons in Germany reduced from 15 to nine, the Navy's frigate and destroyer fleet cut by 10 and submarines by 11.

The Rt Rev George Carey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, was appointed to succeed Dr Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury at the end of January. To many Dr Carey, aged 54, was a surprise choice, having been a bishop for less than three years, but he was the unanimous selection of the Crown Appointments Commission.

**JULY 26**  
The US began removing its chemical weapons from West Germany, transporting them in lorries to the North Sea and thence to Johnston Atoll in the Pacific, where they were destined to be destroyed.



*Shooting became commonplace in Liberia, where rebel groups fought each other as well as President Doe.*

**JULY 27**  
Members of a black Muslim sect seized the Prime Minister of Trinidad, Arthur Robinson, and some other members of his government in the Parliament building in Port of Spain. In an attempt to stage a coup the rebels, led by Yasin Abu Bakr, also seized the state television station and its occupants. The two buildings were surrounded by troops and there was some shooting and many outbreaks of looting throughout the city. On July 31 the Prime Minister, who had gunshot wounds in his legs, was released because, his captors said, of the state of his health. On the following day all the remaining 42 hostages were released and the Muslim rebels surrendered.

*The Rt Rev George Carey is to be the Archbishop of Canterbury when Dr Runcie retires at the end of January.*



Parliament in the republic of Byelorussia voted to declare its sovereignty, the eighth of the Soviet Union's 15 republics to vote for control of its own affairs.

In Nigeria 42 people were executed for taking part in an attempt to overthrow the government of President Ibrahim Babangida on April 22.

Giulio Andreotti's government in Italy survived the resignation of five senior ministers over a law regulating television networks.

An airline pilot who was paralysed after a motor-cycle accident was awarded damages of £1,570,000 in the High Court, the highest award ever made in a claim for personal injury compensation.

**JULY 29**  
After being held hostage in the Tokyo Joe nightclub off Piccadilly for more than 10 hours, 101 people were released unharmed when a Syrian gunman gave himself up to the police.

Dr Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor of Austria from 1970 to 1983, died in Vienna, aged 79.

**JULY 30**  
Ian Gow, Conservative MP for Eastbourne and former Treasury Minister, was killed by an IRA bomb which exploded in his car as he drove from his home at the village of Hankham in Sussex. Gow, who resigned from the Government in 1985 in protest at the Anglo-Irish agreement, was known to be on the IRA's hit-list of 100 found in a terrorist hide-

out in South London in 1988.

Liberian troops were reported to have massacred hundreds of refugees in a Lutheran church in Monrovia. The church was one of the refugee centres sponsored by the Red Cross during the fighting in the Liberian capital, where President Samuel Doe had been under prolonged attack by the rebel National Patriotic Front. At the UN in New York moves were made to call a meeting of the Security Council in the hope of arranging a ceasefire.

**JULY 31**  
The Soviet government halted food and other supplies to Georgia in retaliation for a blockade of railway links by some Georgian nationalists.

England beat India in the first Test at Lord's by 247 runs. The England captain, Graham Gooch, was made "man of the match" after scoring 333 in England's first innings and 123 in the second to record the highest match aggregate in Test history.

**AUGUST 1**  
Press censorship in the Soviet Union was abolished under a new law which made it a criminal offence to interfere with the professional activities of journalists.

Devi Lal, Deputy Prime Minister of India, was dismissed after making allegations of corruption against two senior ministerial colleagues.

**AUGUST 2**  
Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait



shortly before dawn, and within a few hours had seized control of the country. See p 12.

Midland Bank announced that it was to cut 4,000 jobs and sell its subsidiary, Forward Trust, in an attempt to improve its profitability. The bank reported a pre-tax profit for the half year of £36 million which the chairman, Sir Kit McMahon, said was "clearly unacceptable".

#### AUGUST 3

Temperatures in Britain were the highest ever recorded. At Cheltenham the temperature of 37.1°C (98.8°F) beat the previous national record of 36.7°C (98.6°F) measured on August 9, 1911. By August 10 more than 18 million Britons were banned from using their hose-pipes because of water shortages.

#### AUGUST 4

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrated her 90th birthday at Clarence House.

#### AUGUST 5

Speaking in Aspen, Colorado, Mrs Thatcher called on the 35 nations who will be meeting for an East-West summit in the autumn to sign a "European Magna Carta" of human rights. She also called for political structures that would allow world-wide free trade, for a stronger UN and for a commitment from the European Community to offer membership to the emerging democracies of eastern Europe.

The US sent 200 Marines to Monrovia to evacuate American citizens from the besieged capital of Liberia. On August 6 one of the two rebel groups fighting to overthrow President Doe seized 22 hostages from Britain, the US and other countries, but they were released on August 8 as preparations began for the despatch to Liberia of a West African force designed to impose a truce.

#### AUGUST 6

A state of emergency was declared in Pakistan after Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who said that her government of 21 months had abused its power. Mustafa Jatol, a member of the opposition People's Party, was sworn in as caretaker Prime Minister.

The African National Congress in South Africa formally suspended the armed struggle it had been waging for 30 years.



TOM STODDART

*Mrs Jane Gow with her two sons at the funeral of her husband Ian, MP for Eastbourne, killed by an IRA bomb.*

Patrick Wall, Labour MP for Bradford North, died aged 57.

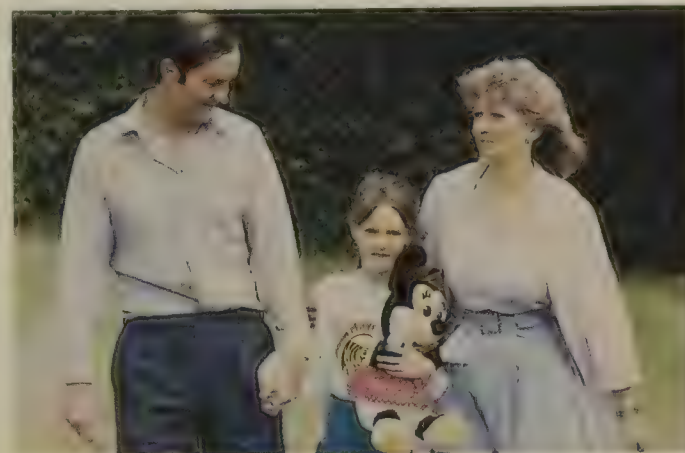
#### AUGUST 7

Sir Geoffrey Owen, editor of the *Financial Times* since 1981, announced that he would be retiring at the end of the year to take up a post at the London School of Economics. His deputy, Richard Lambert, was appointed to succeed him on January 1.

#### AUGUST 8

A Swiss Red Cross worker kidnapped in Lebanon in October 1989 was released by his Palestinian captors. On August 13 a second Swiss hostage, also working for the Red Cross and kidnapped at the same time, was taken to Syria and released.

*Seven-year-old Gemma Lawrence safe with her parents after being abducted from her caravan bed.*



The Aldershot fourth division football club was saved from a winding-up order by an offer of £200,000 from a 19-year-old property investor.

#### AUGUST 10

Police and military moved into the South African cities of Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage to restore order after 42 people had been killed during five days of riots. Violence spread later in the week to townships near Johannesburg, where tribal and political conflicts left 300 dead. On August 19 the government urged Nelson Mandela to talk to the Zulu leader, Chief Buthelezi.

The mayor of Washington DC, Marion Barry, was found guilty on a charge of possessing cocaine. The jury failed to agree on a further 12 charges and the judge declared a mistrial.

#### AUGUST 12

A seven-year-old girl, Gemma Lawrence, was snatched from her

bed through the open window of a caravan parked at West Bay, Dorset. After a two-day search armed police surrounded a house near by and rescued the girl apparently unharmed. A man, Paul Stephen Burton, aged 23, was arrested and later charged with abduction.

#### AUGUST 13

An IRA bomb fixed to a hose in the garden of General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley's house in Oxfordshire was defused by the Army. The general was formerly Northern Ireland Army Commander.

#### AUGUST 14

17-year-old Sachin Tendulkar scored 119 not out to save India from defeat in the second of the three-match Test series against England.

#### AUGUST 15

President Gorbachev announced that he was restoring Soviet citizenship to those forced into exile between 1966 and 1988.

#### AUGUST 18

Three teenage members of a "wilding" mob that raped and savagely attacked a New York investment banker as she jogged in Central Park were convicted on charges of rape, assault, riot and robbery.

#### AUGUST 19

The coalition in East Germany collapsed when the Social Democrats (SPD) resigned, leaving the government without the majority needed for passing Bills to bring about German unification.





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# LONDON'S WATER

Londoners are accustomed to the idea that their water may have been recycled through eight kidneys before it comes out of the tap, but there are good reasons for supposing that the hazards of drinking it are becoming greater than ever. Lyn Owen reports.

**T**he condition of London's water has long been a cause of popular paranoia. The scientist Arthur Hassall pointed out in 1850, during one of London's frequent cholera epidemics, "according to the present system of London's water supply, a portion of the inhabitants of the metropolis are made to consume, in some form or other, a portion of their own excrement—and moreover to pay for the privilege. Is it possible that a system so infamous can long prevail?"

Alas, yes. Despite all the reforms which have taken place since Hassall's time—including the banning of water intake from the tidal Thames and the proliferation of stately Victorian reservoirs, treatment works and slow sand-filtration systems—a small amount of ordure is still officially acceptable and is sometimes present in our drinking water.

Cleaned-up effluent is what many Londoners already dread is predominant in their water, and at times they may be right. A high proportion of the slurry laid on farm land is sewage sludge, effluent not deemed clean enough to be recycled as water. When it rains part of this will be swept back into the rivers, and thus back into the water cycle. There are also accidental sewage or slurry spillages (800 a year in the Thames region), fractured sewage pipes, defective storm drains, cracks in storage reservoir roofs and burst water pipes, all of which can cause sewage contamination to fresh water.

Concern about London's water has inevitably increased with the temperature. As one



An almost pastoral scene at Brent's Welsh Harp Reservoir, which has its own boat club and plays host to 350 sailing

typically long hot summer succeeded by torrential rains was followed by another, Londoners in shorts, singlets and seamy frocks took on the aspect of Neapolitans. As the summer progressed the Bailiff of the Queen's Royal Parks was contemplating an outbreak of potentially toxic blue-green algae in the Serpentine. It was the same organism which last year carried off 14 dogs and 20 sheep as well as hospitalising a party of sea-cadets at waters in Rutland and Staffordshire.

It took the Harbour Master of Brent's Welsh Harp reservoir to reveal that blue-green algae inhabit the London reservoirs, too. "We've had them for five or six years," said Graham Kyte, "though it's only this year people

started panicking about it."

By high summer the presence of blue-green algae had been sighted in the Queen Mary and Barn Island reservoirs, and a general alert had been put out for all the reservoirs in the Thames and Lea valleys where most London water is stored. Alan Nield, drinking-water policy manager for Thames Water, confirmed that there were two kinds of blue-green algae in the London reservoirs. "But we had them in some degree even in the old Metropolitan Water Board days," he says. Professor Geoffrey Codd of Dundee University, Britain's leading expert on the organism, was analysing a cow believed to have died from consuming blue-green algae scum when 1 con-

sulted him. He reported that the blue-green algae were present in Britain's inland waters this year to a "phenomenal" and unprecedented degree. A combination of exceptional sunlight and exceptionally high "nutrient enrichment of waters" by phosphorus, nitrates and sewage, helped them thrive.

There is a 70 per cent chance that these organisms will bloom and burst. When they do, they release aflatoxins which can cause liver and lung damage, neurological disorder, or—in the case of polysaccharides contact irritation, diarrhoea and enteritis. Deaths of animals and occasionally humans are well-known in parts of the USA, Australia, South Africa, and even

Europe from this cause.

Thames Water are adamant that no algae—"They're very large"—could pass their filtration systems. Whether the toxins get through is less certain. No test exists, though they say they are trying hard to find one.

There are strong indications that metropolitans should not be too confident about what can or cannot get past water treatment. Where water is taken from the River Lea for London's largest congregation of reservoirs, for example, locals can point out huge clouds of midges rising from trees. These have massively proliferated in the new weather.

But in South London a dramatic phenomenon that could be called the Plague of Lice affected

an extensive part of the water supply. It is said to have been a prisoner in Brixton jail who first observed "small, wriggly, creepy-crawly things coming out of the tap and gambolling" in his glass of water.

Soon hundreds of South Londoners had also noticed these creatures in their water. "They were chironomid midge larvae," says Bromley's Principal Environmental Health Officer, Nigel Davies. "Somehow they had got through the treatment system at Hampton reservoir at a time when water levels were very low. They'd hatched in the mains pipes. We had lots of complaints, but they didn't apparently constitute a public health hazard."

Around this time Londoners

became aware of other alien presences in London water. Sir John Badenoch and several experts had investigated the activities of a water-borne parasite called cryptosporidium, which had caused widespread serious illness in other parts of Britain over the previous two years. All Britons were vulnerable to it to some degree. It survived current water treatments and disinfections.

A medical team at St Bartholomew's hospital, detecting above-average levels of iodine 125 in the thyroids of the inhabitants of Weybridge, had gone on to find similarly affected thyroids in the inhabitants of London and the Thames Valley. It was traced to low-level radioactivity in water piped from the River Thames.

"Before," said team leader Dr Colin Bowl, "nobody thought iodine 125 could get to humans. But in the Thames Valley some of it gets through the reservoirs and the water-processing plants to people. London is affected by the radiation because it is one of the few cities which relies heavily on a river for water-supply."

Furthermore, a London-wide drinking water survey made by Berridge Laboratories on behalf of 25 local authorities had proved that 60 per cent of samples of the piped water contained, along with other suspect substances, weed-killer in amounts up to 30 times that permitted by the EEC and British standards. Though these laws are stringent and based on lifetime consumption, the



sludgies close to the North Circular. The other side of the picture is grim indeed, with visible rubbish and pollutants indicating the presence of much more.



# LONDON'S WATER

## A DROP TO DRINK?

Ian Mugglestone of Berridge Laboratories, Chelmsford, has been conducting tests on London drinking water on behalf of 25 London boroughs for more than 15 months. Samples are currently being made at a rate of 60 a month.

Where the samplings of Mr Mugglestone and Thames agree alarmingly is in the quantity of weedkiller in London water. Two-thirds of London tap water would be in breach of the law in this respect, if it had not received a special dispensation. When similar levels of weedkiller were found in north Italian water the government cut off the supply for a period. London water has, in some cases, weedkiller up to 50 times the EC permitted amount.

According to the Berridge tests, London's water has other worrying things in it. Phosphorous (which comes from sewage, phosphate fertiliser, detergent and herbicides) has been found in 7 per cent of samples. Coliforms, which are bacteria living in sewage, were found to excess in 4 per cent of the total cases. Only one sample, 0.8 per cent of the total was a "faecal coli".

indicating the presence of faecal matter, but a few others contained faecal streptococci. The amount is within the somewhat generous allowance of 5 per cent bacterial contamination which, however, is only legal as long as it does not include pathogens.

Three other distressing substances appeared in three isolated instances. One sample contained 48 times the permitted level of the poison phenol. There is no certainty that the substance came from the water supply rather than the tap. However, slugs of phenol have twice found their way, via rivers, into the drinking water of many thousands of people of Tyneside and Deeside. Combined with the chlorine used to disinfect drinking water, phenol yields carcinogenic chlorophenols.

The London phenol was found

in only one sample, but a more enduring feature, in 10 per cent of samples, are the carcinogens known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. These leak from the linings of old water mains.

Lead, now recognised as being harmful to the mental development of the young, was used in plumbing until the late 60s and early 70s. This, too, has had to be given a temporarily relaxed standard while Britain catches up with Europe. The lead in London water meets the current requirement, but would not easily match new ones being drawn up by the World Health Organisation and the US.

Trihalomethanes substances which include chloroform are still putting in appearances in 10 per cent of samples. Haringey, in the past, was a particular black spot. THMs are a bi-product of the chlorination process. This is

largely being modified in London now that THMs are suspected of contributing to bladder, colon and rectal cancers.

Only a tiny percentage of samples show nitrite, but unlike other contaminants, nitrites are increasing. Warm weather, or more condensed effluent, produce more bacteria. This demands more disinfectant ammonia.

Bacteria and other germs uncontrolled by disinfectant would be an infinitely greater risk to infant and indeed adult life than nitrite pollution. The ammonia risk is relatively small and has to be run until London's new mains are completed, sewage and filtration systems overhauled, and cleaner methods of ozone and ultraviolet purification of water can be introduced.



*In Somerset a green, algal mat on a dyke is caused by excess nitrates leached from agricultural fertilizer.*

excesses were widespread.

Atrazine and simazine, the substances in question, are rated by American standards as being on a par with paraquat. The Italian government cut off water supplies when they found similar contamination. Thames Water has now requested British Rail, highway authorities, and parks departments, all of whom use gallons every year, to stop it.

Also of concern was the rising presence of phosphorus in some of Berridge's samples. There were small quantities of a range of toxic chemicals. One group, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, is said to be seriously carcinogenic, and was found by Thames Water to be leaching from some of their antiquated mains. These were

lined until the mid-70s with coal tar pitch.

Evaporation in the shallow ground waters of South London, and in the rivers Lea and Thames, is concentrating the pollution. The river Lea, says Dr Paul Johnston, an aquatic toxicologist and an advisor to Greenpeace, takes in the sewage "product" of all the towns between Luton and London. By the time it arrives at the lower London reaches it is running in dry weather "60 per cent treated sewage effluent".

The Thames, for a brief, halcyon period between the late 1960s and 1980, was transformed from its stinking state into a river in which 100 species of fish, including salmon, could be

found. Now, Dr Johnston believes it is slowly reverting to its old murk. Oxygen has to be bubbled in by Thames Water to keep the fish alive at "times of oxygen sag following heavy sewage pollution". In the lower reaches the flounder flatfish are developing lesions and fin rot, and most species, says Johnston, are "rather falling off the bone".

But even the willowy upper reaches no water intake is made down river of Teddington Lock) are less innocent than they appear. The Thames rises from the ground near Cirencester, where the water-borne meningitis bug has become an unusually widespread health problem. Then the river meanders via Oxford, past the nuclear insta-

lations at Aldermaston and Harwell, past the Didcot power station, which can raise the temperature of the river by 2°C, through rich agricultural country where farm slurry, silage, nitrates and phosphates are swept into the river in substantial quantities. At times it also passes close to landfills of unknown toxic waste.

One of these was recently shown to be contaminating, with lethal carbon tetrachloride, a borehole at Blewbury, four kilometres away. The ruins and detritus of an old gas works at High Wycombe has been found to be leaking ammonia and phenolic compounds into the water below. A borehole in Wilmington, South London, nearly had to be closed through similar solvent pollution.



## WHAT LONDONERS MAY FIND IN THEIR DRINKING WATER

Substance	Type	Cause	Risk	% of samples contaminated	Latest situation
Atrazine Simazine	Weedkiller	Leaching from catchments into raw water, from railways, highways, parks.	Can cause tumours in rats.	60 34	Thames Water has asked British Rail and others to cease use of these weedkillers
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons		Leaking from coal tar pitch used in water mains linings until 1976	Severely carcinogenic	5-10	Mains being extensively replaced and ways being sought to remove coal tar pitch, but localised instances still occurring in Kensington, Richmond, Croydon, Lambeth and Enfield
Phenol		Phenols have polluted ground waters: in Thames believed unique to one building, perhaps due to polished tap	In large quantities causes eye/nose irritation, nausea, potential genetic damage	0.5	Phenol slugs have entered water intakes on Tyne and Dee rivers, in Dee incident 200,000 people showed signs of phenol poisoning. The London case seems to have been an isolated instance
Nitrite	Bi-product of bacteria on ammonia or nitrates	Ammonia added to treated water to stabilise chlorine during long journeys in pipeline oxidises when it meets bacteria	Carcinogenic in animals, and blue baby syndrome	5-10	Recent samples have produced more cases over the limit, but 100 times as much nitrite is ingested from food and 1.0 times as much from air as from water
Phosphorous	Fertilisers, pesticides, detergents, human waste.	Recycled sewage effluent, less freshwater dilution of sewage effluent in water courses	Can help algae to thrive, kills fish, can affect central nervous system	7.0	Situation not improving, but the Government states that phosphorous content "does not give rise to public health concern"
Trihalo-methanes	Chloroform, Bromoform, Dibromochloromethane	Bi-products of chlorination process	Mutagenic to bacteria, carcinogenic	Over 10	Occasional local excesses (notably in Haringey), but not a widespread problem in London
Lead	Heavy metal	Local and house plumbing, widely used until 1960s and early 1970s	Can affect mental development of children	10	Local authorities advised to get rid of all lead piping. Regarded as less of a threat in London because hard water does not dissolve it so much
Radioactivity	Iodine 125 and alpha and beta	Low-level radioactivity in Thames from research establishments, hospitals and possibly Chernobyl	Iodine 125 estimated to have increased thyroid cancer by 1%	Not tested	Thames say gross alpha and beta are 40% of WHO permitted dose, but scientists have complained of insufficient information about radioactivity in the Thames
Blue green algae toxins	Afla toxins	Increased sun acting on nutrients, including sewage and phosphates	Depends on type: can affect lungs and liver; or nervous system; or can cause diarrhoea	Not tested	Killed 20 sheep and 14 dogs in Britain last year. Tests are being sought and a careful watch kept on reservoirs
Coliforms	Including 1% faecal Coli, 2% faecal streptococci	Defects in pipes, storm drainage. Defects in storage reservoirs, and filtration problems	Gastro-enteritis and other illnesses	4.0	Indications from tests that bacteria is on the increase. E Coli is indicative of faecal matter in the water
Mineral oils	Petroleum substances	Motor oil or possibly building maintenance	Diarrhoea, "liquid paraffin" effect	0.5	One isolated instance recorded

Compiled with help from the Association of Chief Environmental Health Officers, Berridge Laboratories, Thames Water, Water Research Centre, Public Health Laboratory, National Environmental Research Council, National River Authority, Institute of Hydrology, Hazleton UK, Department of the Environment, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace

How close to the precipice of toxic disaster London teeters was revealed by just one of the 23,000 pollution incidents which occur in Britain annually (2000-plus in the Thames region). Ian Larkin, a National Rivers Authority Pollution Officer, was called from his bed at 2am to a 10-appliance chemical fire at a timber yard at Horsell, near Woking. He arrived to find the remainder of 6,000 gallons of poisonous TBTO (tributyl tin oxide) and lindane wood preservative boiling in a tank engulfed by fire.

Only Larkin's knowledge of local drainage, and swift detective work via various manholes, pursuing the scent of burnt timber and solvent through culverts and outfalls, uncovered the

fact that the dangerous chemicals had leaked into the Horsell Birch culvert, and from there to the Bourne river, which enters the Thames just where London takes its largest intake of the water.

As dawn broke, 15,000 dead chub, roach, dace, eels, pike and trout floated on the Bourne. "They'd swum ahead of the slug of poison," says Larkin, "but it permeates the water and it overtook them and knocked them down." The slug, with a viscous film of pollution spreading across the water, travelled downstream fast to the Thames, but Thames Water and the North Surrey Water Company, alerted by Larkin, had closed the giant sluices which block their water intakes at Hampton and Walton-

on-Thames, and London was safe.

What worries the experts is the number of incidents like this which may not be detected early enough—or even at all. Few are heralded by something as obvious as a fire. Harry Wilson, of the Disaster Prevention Unit of Bradford University, has discovered that only a handful of pollution incidents are reported by the polluters. More are reported by the water authorities, but the great majority are reported by members of the public who have felt their ill-effects. "Major disasters can happen without anyone realising," Wilson says.

The incident in the upper reaches of the Thames which caused the Badenoch Commission to be set up is a case in

point. Thames Water were only alerted to the incident when several thousand of the 600,000 people served by their reservoir at Farmoor, near Cumnor, became seriously ill with diarrhoea lasting two to three weeks. Five hundred people were hospitalised, and the seven-month-old baby daughter of the Pearce family of Swindon was kept in isolation for three days with convulsions.

The bug identified by the medical authorities as the cause of the outbreak, cryptosporidium, affects principally children aged from one to five. It is also life-threatening to everyone with low resistance: the elderly, sufferers from cancer and Aids, and people who take intensive exercise. The parasite was traced to the drink-



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## LONDON'S WATER

ing supply and to Thames water. A Thames employee describes the scene. "A peak shock load of slurry, river-borne, hit and overwhelmed part of the rapid filtration system at Farmoor" (one of the new automated water and microbial water treatment systems). The organism it bore was not, and could not, be killed by the disinfection processes. The rest of the "load" floated on down the Thames towards London.

Although at least two other major outbreaks of the bug have occurred in Britain, it is not known whether there were any London sufferers. "Only very major outbreaks are notified," say the Public Health Laboratories. The fact that London still has mostly slow sand-filtration water purification is thought to have been a major factor in protecting the city's water.

It is not reassuring to know that analysis of London water shows coliforms and faecal streptococci (indicative of microbial contamination) in some 4 per cent of cases, nor that the Directorate of Public Health in Greenwich found coliform levels rising and falling, above and below what is already considered by doctors as a rather slack standard of five per cent. "Though nothing better can be expected with long, old pipes."

In this situation, what assurance have Londoners that every kind of pestilence, rogue protein and virus will be kept out of the water supply? If Britons do not recover the public concern of the Victorian age, could London face cholera again?

Since the first major pollution incident in their area, Thames Water have instituted a massive daily sampling programme. The total last year was 43,000. Each reservoir suspected of blue-green algae bloom had a scientist visiting daily to take tests.

It is reassuring, too, that a £1.5 billion programme has been embarked on to clean up and renew outdated water systems, including a massive, now partially completed, Ring Main under London which, when

finished, will be twice as long as the Channel Tunnel and wide enough in parts to drive a car through. This should make some kinds of water contamination a thing of the past - not least the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and the organisms which can thrive in long, old runs of pipes. The troublesome Hampton and Farmoor reservoirs and treatment works are also being upgraded.

Sewage systems are receiving a radical overhaul. Water filtration systems especially the "cheap" rapid ones that save "expensive down time" are being looked at closely. Methods such as carbon filtration and new, three-part disinfection processes are being researched to find ways to neutralise the new threats to London water purity.

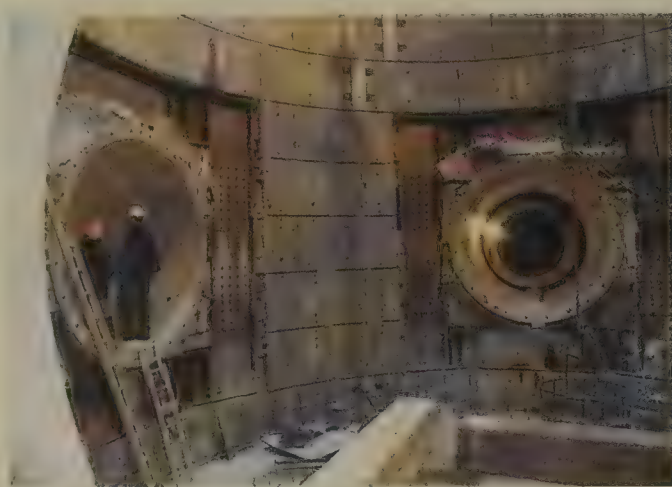
The best news of all, perhaps, is that the current Thames Water chairman, Roy Watts, does not appear to support the notion of re-used effluent in London's tap-water (though it has been rumoured that he has considered an ultra-safe brand of Thames bottled water). He is publicly committed to "restoring honest British tap-water to the drinking classes". Londoners can only thirst for the day □

## THE MAIN CHANCE

It has something of the atmosphere of a North Sea oil rig - but it is 40 metres underground. Beneath the feet of London strollers there is a 220-kilometre tunnelling operation longer than the Channel Tunnel and broad enough in parts to drive a car through. "Moles" underground boring machines plough on almost non-stop to finish a new water-distribution system for London.

They are penetrating the London clay at a level deeper than ever before. The engineers who man them are pretty much moles themselves. Living for virtually a week at a time underground, they surface for a brief 12 hours' daylight before returning to shifts. They encounter unknown hazards. Two engineers have already died in the works, suffocated by unidentified gases at the bottom of the Stoke Newington shaft. A mole machine lay water-logged for months under Tooting Bec Common.

To the perils of the warren of tunnels and pipes which run underneath London (since



Work is in progress on the new deep gravity Ring Main system.

modifications during the war no one has quite known where they lead) has now been added the peril of a rising water table. The men of Taylor Woodrow, who are undertaking the largest water-construction work in Europe, are engaged in a race against time.

The scheme's first purpose was to provide boom-time London with water for all the new yuppie perquisites of power-showers and

Jacuzzis. Its second was economic: the new scheme will work by gravity, not electric pumps. The urgency is greater because London's water mains are becoming dangerous.

But a big question mark still hangs over the new Ring Main system. Londoners complained of interruptions in supply. Will the high technology gravity version work better? We shall know very soon.



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# 1940

## THE SCARS OF WAR

Fifty years are the larger part of most lifetimes, and even for people who were alive in 1940 many memories will have faded. John F. Crossland has been searching for traces of the Blitz and the Battle of Britain.

**E**arly on the morning of July 14, 1936, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, the 54-year-old leader of Britain's newly-formed Fighter Command, arrived at his headquarters of Bentley Priory. The room he chose for his office, now the Dowding Room, has been preserved. It was from there in August, 1940 that the Battle of Britain was planned and ultimately won.

The main offensive began on August 13 and intensified two days later. On August 15, squadrons of Luftwaffe were over some part of Britain throughout the day, and 77 German aircraft were shot down compared with 34 British. The Luftwaffe attacks on the British airfields were becoming increasingly successful and, though they lost more aircraft than the RAF, they had more reserves. Some of our men, whom Dowding knew as his "dear fighter boys", were sketched just after the battle and the portraits hang in the Rotunda, down the corridor from his office.

The radar plots from the chain of stations along the south and east coasts, which provided the information activating the defence system, were fed into the underground operations room. This is still a top-secret installation, in the grounds of Bentley Priory. With Observer Corps information and "Ultra" decrypts, they were passed down the line to RAF Uxbridge, where Air Vice-Marshal Sir Keith Park, who had day-to-day tactical control of the battle, had his headquarters. His "ops room" has

been turned into a museum which freezes the action on Sunday, September 15, when the Luftwaffe aimed to clear the way for the German invasion of Britain, by destroying the RAF. Waves of Luftwaffe bombers with fighter escort crossed the English coast on their way to London. Luftwaffe formations attacked Southampton, Manchester, Liverpool, Cardiff and Bristol. Sixty German aircraft were shot down for the loss of 27 RAF fighters. Two days later the invasion was postponed indefinitely.

A walk down a long corridor to the ops room, and through a door marked "Room 2, plotting room", brings you to Churchill's "small theatre". Sitting in the glassed-in control box, you can take in the devastation of the Blitz. The Prime Minister would have done. Covering the entire wall opposite is the famous "tote" board, which gave the controller the whole picture of an attack. It is divided into sector stations: Biggin Hill, Kenley, Tangmere and North Weald, and shows the numbers of their squadrons.

Warrant Officer Chris Wren, who provides a commentary, flicks switches beneath the plotting table, lighting up lines of glowing bulbs indicating squadrons that are "available, 30 minutes", "at readiness" (five minutes) and on "stand-by" (two minutes). On the morning of September 15, 1940, the row of red bulbs, denoting action joined, flickered in unison. The lower row—the state of reserves—was out. Churchill said: "Hitherto I had watched in silence. I



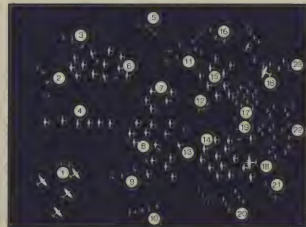
now asked: 'What other reserves have we?' None," said Air Vice-Marshal Park.

The aerial victory is being celebrated this autumn, with some of the 569 survivors of the Few touring air shows and signing books to raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund's £20 million appeal. The people of London have their memories too. More than 20,000 were killed in the eight months to May, 1941, with nearly 40,000 injured. Now, the bomb sites are almost lost beneath post-war developments; a few ruined churches are retained as memorials, and there are a handful of plaques over mass graves.

Malcolm Robett of City Walks of London takes tourists around the blitz sites of December 29, 1940—the second Great Fire of London.

It is hard for them to see, among the thrusting new Dockland developments,

## THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN



*This imaginary but typical pattern of the 1940 air raids over Britain was drawn by Charles Sargeant and reproduced in the ILN in September, 1967.*

- 1 Spitfires climb towards battle
- 2 Hurricanes dive on Junkers 87s
- 3 Hurricanes attack Dorniers
- 4 Junkers 87 dive-bombers make for target under cover of mass raid
- 5 Spitfires turning to attack Messerschmitt 110 escort (11)
- 6 Junkers 88 formation; two turning out of formation
- 7 Dornier 17s (or 217s) being attacked head on by Spitfires (3)
- 8 Dorniers under attack from Spitfires (3)
- 9 Spitfires preparing to attack Junkers 88s (15)

- 10 Hurricanes turning in to attack formation of Heinkels (14)
- 11 Messerschmitt fighter escort turning to attack Spitfires (9)
- 12 Spitfires heading for formation of Dorniers (22)
- 13 Dornier falling out of formation
- 14 Heinkel 111 formation
- 15 Formation of Junkers 88s
- 16 Spitfires breaking through escorting Messerschmitt 110s (11)
- 17 Higher formation of Heinkels
- 18 Dorniers falling out of formation
- 19 Spitfires coming down on Messerschmitt 109s (20)
- 20 Messerschmitt 109s turning in to Spitfires (9)
- 21 Messerschmitt 109s turning to meet Spitfires (19)
- 22 High-flying Dornier formation
- 23 Part of Messerschmitt 110 escort

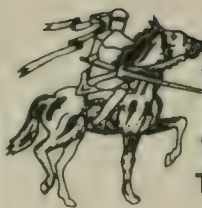


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the ruins of the chandlers' and underwriters' of the merchant fleet.

Rabett tells how the Germans were determined to strike an unforgettable blow at the City, a plan aided by an unfortunate combination of circumstances. City churches and offices were locked for the New Year's holiday and the Thames was at an abnormally low ebb. With water supplies running low, firemen had to watch while the flames, whipped by a 50mph wind, consumed eight Wren churches and the Guildhall. St Paul's was saved after a hard fight in which the firemen had to take cover while their appliances melted. A total of 1,400 fires were raging and brigade headquarters was running out of map pins.

Rabett tries to conjure a sense of that horrific night, but says tourists find it difficult to understand because the bombed remains are so few. They can get some idea of the destruction by visiting the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth where the "Blitz Experience" recreates a street shelter. "Get a move on, the Blitz is about to start," we were told by the "air-raid warden" as the reinforced door clanged shut, locking a dozen of us into our 1940 time capsule. It was pitch dark, but for a few pencil torches provided for those of a nervous disposition. What you get from the experience rather depends on your age. As we adjusted our headsets for the commentary I noticed a small boy twitching with excitement, triggered by the wail of the sirens and the simulated shriek of the bombs. The seat began to shake and a near-miss released a cloud of acrid smoke which drew a whoop of delight from him. But for some older visi-

*The Illustrated London News* for October 5, 1940, said that Government pleas to use Underground stations as shelters only in emergency were being massively ignored.

tors the memories which are stirred can prove too painful and they have to leave.

London was dreadfully ill-prepared for the ordeal it had to face in the winter of 1940-41. Street shelters were damp and unheated, and some were potential death-traps. Some local councils took the Government's directive that they should save cement as authorization to mix in lime. Some 5,000 shelters were thus not proofed against bomb blast, and had to be replaced. East Enders demanded access to the Underground, where they camped on the platforms: Mass Observation, the survey of popular attitudes, noted that they were not merely sheltering, but living underground.

Some took up the troglodyte existence in a more natural setting, that of the Chislehurst caves, a 20-mile warren of Neolithic flint quarries 200 feet below the North Downs in Kent. The owner, James Gardner, threw open the caves as soon as the first bombs fell on the London docks on September 7, 1940. Soon 15,000 shelters were living there. The Government installed bunks and electric light and set up a small hospital and a school. If people went above ground and did not return after three days, they were deemed to be dead or to have found another billet, and their bunks were reallocated.

The Museum of London opened its newly refurbished Second World War gallery on September 4; it includes an audio-visual presentation of taped inter-

views with survivors. Geoffrey Taylor, a Bow policeman, remembers raising rabbits for food at the station, being machine-gunned by a German fighter, and escorting unexploded bombs for detonation. The mosaic of recollection is filled in further by the Ragged School Museum in Bow. It is holding a special exhibition on the Blitz, and starting a Blitz "trail", taking in St John's church, Wapping, and Grove Road railway arches on which the first V-1—or doodlebug—landed.

Part of the Government's protection against the Blitz can be seen in the Cabinet War Rooms, which were constructed in the basement of Government offices in Great George Street, Whitehall, following the Munich Agreement of 1938. They are equipped with every communications facility necessary to conduct the war. Like Uxbridge, they are frozen in time. In this case it is the 5pm Cabinet meeting on October 15, 1940 which, as the headset commentary says, had only one subject: the survival of the British people. Outside the Cabinet room you pass the terminal for SIGSALY, the direct radio/telephone link between Churchill and Roosevelt which was a forerunner of digital communications.

Echoing through the ante-chamber is a recording of Churchill's speech of September 11, 1940. "This cruel, indiscriminate and wanton bombing of London is part of Hitler's invasion plan. He forgets the tough fibre of the Londoners who have been bred to value freedom above their lives. He has kindled a fire in their hearts which will glow long after all traces of the conflagration he has caused in London have disappeared."



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# QUITTING THE FAST TRACK

Courses in garden design are attracting people away from the City and the high-stress lifestyle of the 1980s. Geraldine Bedell looks at the new high-status career. Photographs by Victor Watts.

Indigestion, hangovers, a social life in tatters. For many people the high-powered glamour jobs of the enterprise culture have proved far less pleasurable than they once promised to be. It is all very well wearing Armani or Chanel, but if you have to dress at 6.30am so that you can make it into the office by 7am, if you bolt junk food at your desk so as not to waste precious work-time; if you keep cancelling evening appointments because your hours are not only excessively long but unpredictable, if your friends get fed up because you never have time for them and if you have to drink a whole bottle of wine or swallow pills to get to sleep, what is the point?

Now that quality of life has become an item on everyone's agenda, there are signs that some of those who previously thought their job was a privilege are seeing it as a pressure. That has cleared the way for occupations that were once thought fit only for the eccentric or the dilettante to take centre stage as high-status jobs of the 90s.

Grubbing about in the earth has not traditionally been the fast track to a fashionable career; to garden full-time you had to be either retired or the sort of comfortably-off Home Counties wife whose vocabulary did not include the

word "career". But there are signs that weeding, digging and planting may be acquiring a new cachet. Gardening and, especially, garden design—that most accomplished and skilled end of the pastime—are suddenly being taken more seriously.

"The biggest single trend in garden-design courses is the number of high-achieving, highly-paid people who are applying," says Rosemary Alexander, who runs the English Gardening School course at Chelsea Physic Garden. "We are particularly seeing a lot of people who are disillusioned with the City—stockbrokers and financial futures traders, for example—and we are keen to take people like that who have a good career track record. Garden design is a young profession, and there is a need for well-trained, highly competent people. We are now where interior design was 30 years ago; my guess is that in 20 years' time there will be as many garden designers as interior designers."

Ironically, the new, bigger market for garden design has been created largely by the lifestyle that some would-be designers are fleeing. "There is a new kind of client," says Rosemary Alexander, "typically a married couple who are both working very hard and don't

have the time to do their garden themselves. They can afford, and are happy, to pay a professional to do it really well for them: they know that if they plant the wrong plants, or plant them badly, it will be a year before they can put it right."

Suzanne Hobbs is 29, and left the University of East Anglia with a post-graduate qualification in marketing. She worked first as a graduate trainee for Coca-Cola, and then in sales promotion for a marketing consultancy. She now feels bitter about what she sees as wasted years. "I was getting into work at 7 o'clock in the morning and sometimes not leaving till 10 or 11 o'clock at night. I frequently worked at weekends. That meant I could socialise only with people from work. If I did go out for dinner, I never had time to say thank you; I forgot people's birthdays. Working like that ate up my youth.

"I think it was a curious phenomenon of the Thatcher years: there was a feeling when you came out of university that you had to make money; that that was what it was all about. All my friends went into demanding, very well-paid jobs, and about 50 per cent of them have now chucked them in. They have gone travelling or bought wine bars or started dealing in paintings. There is now this great



move to get out of jobs that make you feel like a very expensive piece of office machinery."

Suzanne travelled for six months and, although she went straight back into a marketing job when she returned, the time away had given her a chance to get her life into perspective. "I was able to reassess and I realised that, although I was well-paid, I had to eat out all the time because there was no time to cook and I bought compact discs which I never got a chance to listen to.

"I had always been interested in gardening, in plants, in visiting gardens, and garden design seemed to me a way of getting back to the earth—as far away as possible from the materialism of marketing. I had a fairly creative background, but I hadn't allowed myself to think of doing anything in that line after university because as a woman there was a feeling that you had to 'succeed'—get a proper job. It was that stage of feminism when you felt you would be wasting your education if you didn't become a high earner, prove you could compete seriously in a big organisation."

Suzanne, just completing her course at the Chelsea Physic Garden, feels her life has already improved immeasurably. "The pace is different. People are so nice. I was used to being stabbed in the back all the time." She paid for the course (£3,450 for a two-day week, for three 11-week terms) out of her savings, and has managed to keep up the mortgage payments on her Wandsworth Common house. She admits that knowing she would no longer have lots of money sloshing around was the hardest thing to come to terms with. But, even before leaving Chelsea, she had already set up her own business, Suzanne Hobbs Garden Design, at 10 Althorp Road, London SW17 (081-767 7774), with her first couple of commissions and an advertisement in the Yellow Pages.

"So much for getting out of the rat race," teased one of her fellow students. "Ah," said Suzanne seriously, "but it's a question of the nature of the work."

Although the Chelsea course involved only two days' attendance a week, students are expected to work by themselves the rest of the time. "If you're really quick and efficient you can probably get through it in another two days," says Mrs Alexander, who prides herself on running a course that is "strong on the practical element—the right material for the job". Garden design is about much more than plants: it is also about hardware—stone, steps and ponds—and combines the disciplines of architect, artist and draughtsman.

Students at Chelsea spend approximately equal time on plants, design,

theory (soils, organic gardening, tree surgery) and graphic skills—"we are very strong on that," says Mrs Alexander. "If you're going to charge £1,000 for a plan it has to look impressive." The plans do, indeed, impress. Mrs Alexander believes she can teach anybody to draw, unless they have some physical impediment.

Earlier this year the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew started to offer its first five-week garden-design courses. Their senior lecturer, top designer John Brookes, believes his students gain from the more intensive atmosphere: "In practice, they spend nearly as much time here as they would at Chelsea Physic Garden, and they build up a head of steam. All the same, to become a fully-qualified landscape architect takes much longer. One year's training doesn't give you an understanding of plants. Some students do go into business straight away, but some want to take it further and may well go on to a three-year course in landscape architecture at, say, Thames Polytechnic."

John Brookes tries, above all, to give his students a philosophy. "It is a question of aesthetics: you have to relate the task to the style of the house and to the people living in it. You have to consider the wider landscape—whether you're in Surrey or Australia. I try to give students a sense of the breadth of the subject. It's easy enough for them to look up how to build steps or a pond; I try to give them something to bind it together."

Kew also has its fair share of students who are looking for a change of direction—"people who have had enough of television or advertising agencies, and a number of airline pilots," says John Brookes.

Robert Myerscough was one of the first students on the £1,725 course; he was attracted by John Brookes's reputation, and by the resources of Kew. An Ireland-based businessman, Mr Myerscough had previously run an insurance company, the Coyle Hamilton Group, with 200 employees and branches across the Republic. "I had had enough," he says. "I wanted to do something different; I just came to the conclusion that, having been an insurance broker for 30 years, I would be better off doing something I enjoyed. I was no longer getting any pleasure from it."

Mr Myerscough has remained deputy chairman of his insurance company—a convenient way of dropping out—but intends to build up a garden-design business sufficient to give him a respectable income, if not quite what he had before. He has already completed his first commission and, having moved house recently, is working on his own new garden. "It is very absorbing. I like

working from home; I like not having to commute. The family are pleased too, because they know I'm happier. I now have ideas to design a range of ornamental structures. And I feel I am developing a style: I probably prefer a more modern garden, in the sense of a freer form, labour-saving arrangements, plants which succeed one another and a dramatic, rather than a romantic, feel."

At the other end of the spectrum from Kew is the full-time, year-long course at the Inchbald School of Design in Eccleston Square, London SW1. This is divided into three 10-week terms: introductory; garden design detail, which assumes knowledge of planting and gives students confidence to make clear what they want to contractors; and advanced, in which they undertake a large-scale project, do some work on running a business, and take examinations. The £8,018 course entitles graduates to the school's diploma, which is backed by the Society of Landscape and Garden Designers. Any of three terms can be taken by itself, at a cost of £2,571.

There are only 16 places on the full-time course. "We feel we achieve a better relationship with lecturers by having a small group," says the Inchbald's director of garden design, Andrew Wilson. "The course is quite expensive and we expect students to work evenings and weekends, so the majority of people applying are extremely serious about it. I talk to them, and ascertain whether they are prepared to give up more or less everything else: if they are, they will probably get a place."

Andrew Wilson confirms that most of those applying are looking for second careers. He says a good few are people who have been made redundant from the boom jobs of the early 80s (in the City, for example) which proved unable to sustain the numbers recruited into them. "It is not unusual for people to spend their redundancy money on the course," he says. The Inchbald School has a good record for turning out employable people: "Everyone has found what they wanted over the couple of years I have been involved here," Mr

"I came because  
I hoped that  
the course might  
provide a  
second career."

CHRISTOPHER NAYLOR









Wilson says, "either setting up in business themselves, or joining a practice."

Until recently garden design, and gardening courses generally, had a rather élite, upper-class, leisured image. Though the courses are certainly not inexpensive, they no longer attract a preponderance of students wanting to know what to do with the grounds of their stately homes. "We have been running these courses for seven years," says Rosemary Alexander. "At one time there was an element of people doing them just for fun. Now we take mainly people who are looking seriously for a second career. If people have already been successful, it is likely they've got the stamina to cope, and the personality to carry it through."

Chelsea Physic Garden receives about 100 applications a year for 50 places. Rosemary Alexander asks applicants to fill in a questionnaire and provide a cv. She invites potential students for a group discussion and selects from this, aiming each year to take four people who have not already had a good career. She acknowledges the course is not cheap,

"I wanted to get as far away as possible from the materialism of marketing."

SUZANNE HOBBS

and says there is an attempt under way to set up two scholarships. "I don't know that everyone who comes has the capital; I should think the right person could certainly get a bank loan."

John Brookes also emphasises that he is looking for people who will approach the task in a spirit of tough professionalism. "We do get applications from ladies who have got children off their hands and are looking for something to do; I deter them if I feel they've not had to concentrate in this sort of way for a long time. They can be difficult to teach if they've been used

to doing the shouting, and suddenly they're being shouted at; they can't cope with not being in charge. The problem is that there's only one right way to do this. There isn't a domestic level and a commercial level. It's to do with aesthetics, not your pond in Surbiton."

You clearly cannot generalise about people, however. Kristina Fitzsimmons left her teaching job to have children - two girls, now aged nine and six. But having spent the last decade at home has not made her incompetent, quite the reverse. She already had a degree in natural sciences and taught A level biology at Putney High School.

"Now my daughters are older I have a chance to do something for myself again. Being a biologist, I had been thinking about garden design for a couple of years. I see myself building up a business at the pace I want to, so that by the time my daughters leave home I will be very busy. I think it is easier for women to get out and take stock of their lives. Children form a natural break; I am rather grateful for that opportunity."



12  
YEARS  
OLD

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It does seem harder for men to get off the treadmill. Newcomers to the garden design trade, as distinct from the substantial proportion who are doing courses because they are already contractors (building gardens) or gardeners (maintaining them), are predominantly women. A few men, like Robert Myerscough, get to the top in their first career, see no more challenges and can afford financially to shift gear. But most—after the age of 30 or so, at any rate—probably have to suffer a worse crisis than women do before they will consider a change of direction. That image of themselves as the provider is a great responsibility and, in a way, a handicap.

Christopher Naylor's decision was made for him by his health. Until recently he was with P&O Containers, as general manager in charge of services to India and the Arabian Gulf. "I had been interested in getting out and doing a garden-design course for some time, but I couldn't see a way to make it work financially. I investigated the course here at Chelsea Physic Garden two years ago, and decided I couldn't afford it," he says. "I'd been in the same company for a very long time, and there were pensions and share options and golden handcuffs. Then I was unwell last year, and my doctor told me I had to get out before I was really ill. So I retired for health reasons on a full pension and immediately applied for a place on the course.

"I came for three reasons—sheer interest, because I thought it would be a lovely way to spend the summer, and because I hoped that, after 32 years in one job, it might provide a second career. I

**"The biggest trend in garden-design courses is the number of high-achieving people who are applying."**

**ROSEMARY ALEXANDER**

will undoubtedly practise to some degree, although the pressure isn't on me as it is on some people to develop a major business; pressure, in fact, is the thing I need to avoid." He has, however, set up his own company at 21 Hurlingham Square, London SW6 (071-371 5785).

So how much can these relatively inexperienced garden designers expect to earn, once they leave with their certificates? "It entirely depends on the scale of the plan, on your expertise, on whether you're working in the country or the West End," says John Brookes. "After five weeks you should be hiring yourself out at £15 to £20 an hour; an overall design for a backyard could range from £200 to £500."

Rosemary Alexander says that, at an hourly rate of £10-plus, a Chelsea Physic Garden graduate should be charging £1,000 for a half-acre garden. "The highest-paid garden designers charge £60 to £100 an hour, and they are run off their feet, working all over the world. There simply aren't enough of them."

After the initial landscaping plan has been drawn up, the designer then produces a planting plan (included in Rosemary Alexander's £1,000). "The plan goes out to tender, and the person who designed the garden will supervise the construction," she says. "The plants are arranged last. They're the icing on the cake. I always do my own planting." It can be a long process: "Robert Adams took about 20 years to do Lord and Lady Carrington's garden at Bledlow in Buckinghamshire," she adds.

The view seems to be that those who have always been high achievers will be every bit as successful at garden design. Elizabeth Cooke has a PhD in banking law, and became a merchant banker before she switched to lecturing and examining for the Law Society. She had a visiting professorship at Copenhagen University and travelled all over the world to teach. But she became frustrated with cuts in higher education, with the difficulty of keeping students up to date with changes in European Commission Law, and with the level of pressure for a £30,000-a-year salary.

But, as with Christopher Naylor, it took what psychologists call a life crisis to precipitate a change. "My father was dying. He always wanted me to be a lawyer; he had been a martial lawyer during the war, and had been prevented from practising afterwards. There was a sense in which I had always been fulfilling his ambitions.

"And then he died, and I was terribly upset, and realised it was time to reassess my life. I was actually brought up with design. My father became an architect, my mother was trained as a dress designer and I had toyed with the idea of doing something design-related, but it seemed a bit frivolous. My mother-in-law was a Chelsea Flower Show gold-medal winner, and my mother was a brilliant and serious gardener. "Anyway, at the Chelsea Flower Show I came to the English Gardening School stand and it was like a revelation. I realised that this was what I wanted to do. It took me two years to extricate myself from the office, but here I am."

Elizabeth first intends to get to grips with the two gardens she owns with her husband (a partner in a law firm) in Dulwich and Devon. "Then I will be setting up a business, which I know how to do. Being a lawyer is a good training for this—it gives you an eye for detail."

She says she has been impressed by the other people on the course: "You really do get a cross-section of working people. I suppose that's because you have to do it either properly or not at all. I had never studied any art before, and I've realised I love it. It's like being reborn." □



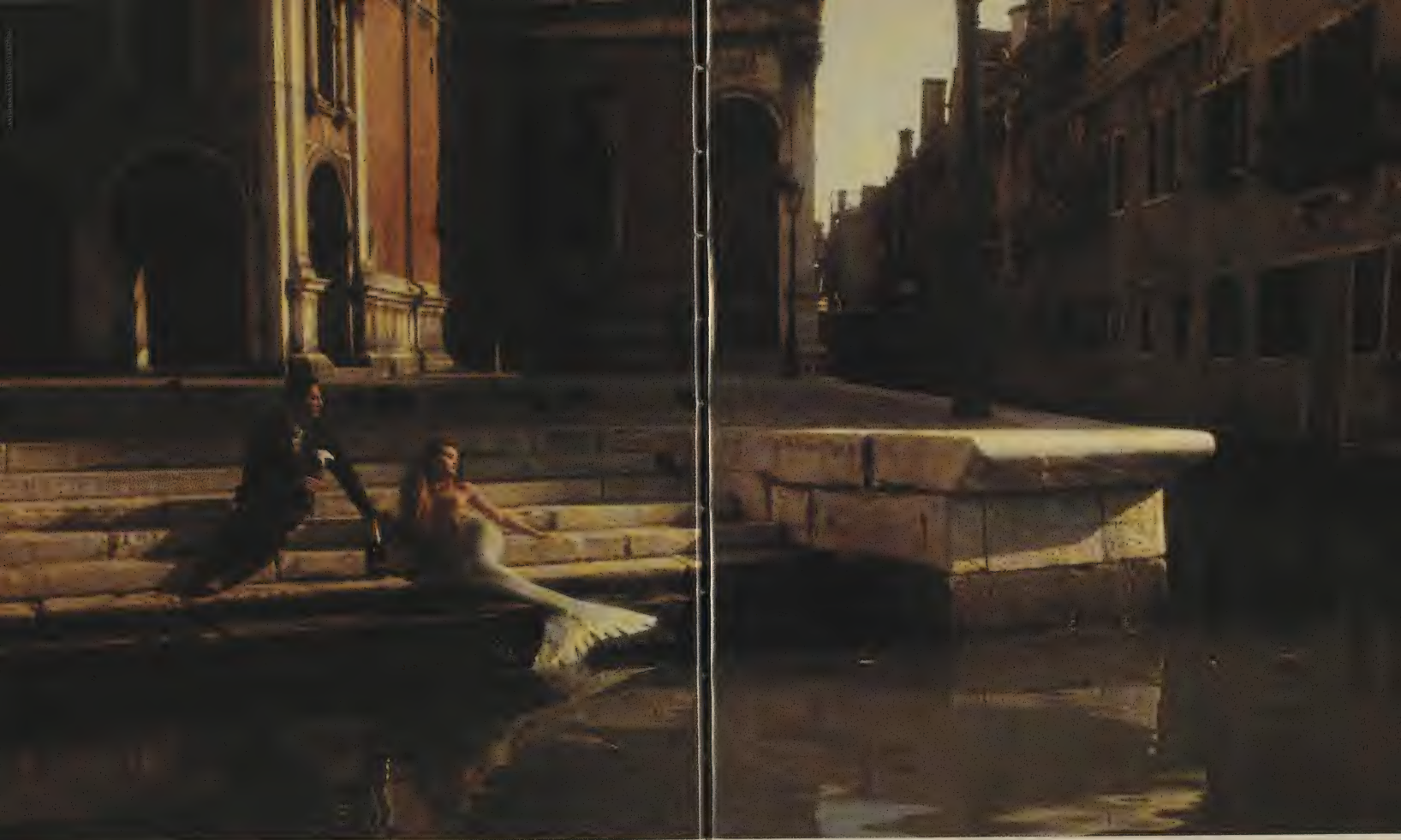


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Sir Crispin Tickell, the new President of the Royal Geographical Society, discards diplomacy to talk to Lewis Chester about his growing concern at the state of the natural world.

# DOOMSDAY DIPLOMAT

Sir Crispin Charles Cervantes Tickell, Britain's most exquisitely-named prophet of environmental doom, no longer has the sense of tilting at windmills. As the man most credited with the "greening" of Mrs Thatcher, he feels that things are slowly turning his way. Indeed, prospects of their being speeded up, with Sir Crispin acting as the country's leading progress-chaser, are better than ever.

Sir Crispin concluded a brilliant diplomatic career as Our Man at the UN with a final flourish that produced the Security Council's resolution calling for sanctions against Iraq, following its invasion and annexation of Kuwait. He returns to London to become the new president of the Royal Geographical Society. There are already signs of that venerable 19th-century institution, the haven of explorers and adventurers, changing into a think-tank for the environmental concerns of the 21st century.

Sir Crispin is a doomwatcher who refuses to pull punches. In his speech on global warming to the Royal Society last year he unapologetically unsettled his distinguished audience with the vision of a world shrunk by rising seas and expanding deserts. The more advanced civilisations would simply be overrun by refugees, with Africans pouring into Europe, Chinese into the Soviet Union, Latin Americans into the United States.

While contemplating these awesome matters, Sir Crispin finds plenty of scope for humour. In New York he would take great pleasure in having his cook serve the French envoy with such delicacies as sheep's sorrel, lady's thumb and poor man's pepperwort—all weeds culled from the richness of Central Park. For Sir Crispin there is no rigid distinction between the fun and the fraught in his message. It is all part of the planet's rich texture. "The beating of a butterfly's wings in Manhattan," he once said, "may contribute to an eventual deluge on Carlton House Terrace."

I met him in London's Little Venice where he and his second wife maintain a

comfortable flat more redolent of a settled past than an uncertain future. Tall and trim, Sir Crispin is 60 years old but looks 10 years younger. His eyes are blue and flashing. But the most remarkable characteristic is his speech—crisp, eloquent and rapid-fire. You can imagine how diplomatic and environmental opponents, perhaps even Mrs Thatcher, might have been mowed down by the sheer velocity of his delivery.

The bare details of Sir Crispin's biography are a poor clue to the man. He was educated at Westminster and Oxford (where he took a first in History); and national service in the Coldstream Guards preceded his long stay at the Foreign Office. On the surface it is a conventional success story but, appearances aside, there is scarcely anything conventional about Sir Crispin.

His father was Jerrard Tickell, the popular novelist who wrote the best-selling *Odette*, the story of the French Resistance heroine. A stronger influence was his mother, Renée, who was a member of the Huxley clan and, like most of them, enormously interested in extending the boundaries of human perception. She wrote regularly about extra-sensory matters. It was the Huxley connection that led young Crispin to become a member of the Zoological Society, at the age of seven. Family legend has it that the author of *Don Quixote* was an ancestor, but Sir Crispin has never been convinced. Still, the name "Cervantes" has had its uses, particularly when Sir Crispin was Our Man in Mexico.

Though he rapidly became a high-flyer at the FO, his interests were never narrowly careerist. Palaeontology and pre-Columbian art were early enthusiasms. Both he and his mother contributed to a book called *Life After Death*. His chapter detailed the religious practices of the Incas and Aztecs.

Sir Crispin's involvement in environmental issues was, he says, almost a coincidence. "Not totally, mind. I've always had grave doubts about how long industrial civilisation could keep going. I

remember thinking in 1973, rather against the trend, that the oil crisis was a good thing that would compel people to think of alternative fuel sources."

In 1975 he was allowed to take a sabbatical year at Harvard. "I'd just had a rough few years ending with the European Security Conference and talks on arms reduction with the Russians. At that point the last things I wanted to study were European security and arms control, though it was rather expected of me." To the astonishment of the FO, and the mild amusement of the Harvard faculty, he chose to study meteorology and astronomy.

The result was a slim volume called *Climatic Change and World Affairs* in which Tickell tried to render the political world sensitive to the winds of change that were blowing through the natural world. He was not alone in this endeavour. Among the papers he found while conducting his research was one on the same topic by the Central Intelligence Agency. "People think the CIA is all spies," says Sir Crispin, "but most of them are pure boffins."

It was some years, however, before much attention was paid to the environmental concerns of either the CIA or the British diplomat. In 1983, when the British Antarctic Survey conclusively established that CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) were depleting the ozone layer, Sir Crispin's apparently quixotic interest became the stuff of which international policies are made.

He was becoming well placed to make his voice heard. It so happened that Mrs Thatcher was a guest at his table in Mexico City in 1981 when an earth tremor hit the capital. The Ambassador, totally unperturbed by the leaping cutlery and the extinguished lights, called for candles and resumed his conversation as if nothing had occurred. Mrs Thatcher was said to have been most impressed with his display of *sang froid* and not totally unmoved by his thoughts on climate.

The other close Thatcher connection came through the Falklands. Back in





HOMERSYKES

1954, before Sir Crispin took up his glittering diplomatic postings—in The Hague, Paris, Bonn and New York—he had been a diligent FO desk man for the Falklands and the Antarctic. During the Falklands War his nightly efforts on Mexican television were allegedly the main reason why Mexico did not declare openly for Argentina.

At the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), where he served as Permanent Secretary for three years, Sir Crispin managed to wean the post-war Falklands economy off British government aid—then running at £50 million—and on to the lucrative sale of fishing licences. A grateful Prime Minister then used Sir Crispin as her main weapon in the diplomatic offensive to normalise relations with Argentina, which was achieved in large measure last year. By then Mrs Thatcher had already given her famous “green speech” to the 1988 meeting of the Royal Society. Sir Crispin’s deft memorandum on global

warming was said to have been especially relevant to that purpose.

There are countless stories attesting to Sir Crispin’s skill in diplomatic combat. In Mexico City he disarmed an anti-British mob by inviting them into the Embassy for a cup of tea. In Brussels, as Chef de Cabinet to Roy Jenkins during his term as President of the European Commission, he navigated them both through the early rapids of the European Monetary System. In New York, as chairman of the UN Security Council, he was given most credit for arranging the Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

This long background as an adroit and practical man of affairs gives Sir Crispin’s doomsday critique an unusual potency. Like most futurologists he sees over-population as a prime danger, to both the earth’s resources and our ability to survive natural calamity. “If we don’t manage this problem,” he says, “we can be sure that nature in one of a thousand ways will do it for us. It might be nasty for

those around at the time.” Meanwhile, people should make a bigger effort to log the nasty things that man is doing now. The crucial losses of one-fifth of the world’s topsoil from its cropland, and one-fifth of tropical rain forests in the past decade do not feature in growth-orientated national accounts. Sir Crispin says there is clearly something wrong with national accounting systems which “show as a plus the economic activity which results from felling a tree in the rain forest, or the clean-up following a major oil spill, but which take no account of the loss for generations to come”.

For Sir Crispin there is no major distinction between environmental politics and traditional politics. Both are essentially about interest, though hitherto the environmental interest has been poorly perceived. Governments find it hard to identify their limited national concerns with those of an international environment. But this is changing. It is one reason why Sir Crispin is guardedly optimistic about what is happening in terms of climate. The problem of acid rain he sees as now being soluble, given the political will. The protection of the ozone layer, particularly from CFCs, is already recognized internationally as a common concern. The larger and more intractable problem of global warming—produced by the build-up of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, in the earth’s atmosphere—is not beyond solution.

There are problems with the United States, easily the biggest and most wasteful user of carbon. Even so, said Sir Crispin, ideas for promoting energy efficiency in North America are taking hold on a significant scale.

Progress is also being made in less developed areas. Previously it had been thought that whatever the major powers might agree on limiting carbon emissions, their efforts would be blunted by the determination of China and India to industrialise their societies. But Sir Crispin told me about a “most interesting” report he had just seen—the work of a Chinese scientist. It pointed out that global warming had alarming implications for a country with a quarter of the world’s population and only five per cent of its water supply. He had also read a report by an Indian scientist, indicating that global warming could play havoc with the monsoon. “You see,” says Sir Crispin, “they are both very vulnerable to global warming, so they have a big national interest involved.”

Next month Sir Crispin will add to his workload by becoming Warden of Green College, Oxford, a graduate foundation for medicine and science. He is the first non-medical man to hold the position, but will surely be the most memorable □





## A JOURNEY FOR THE CONNOISSEUR

For many years the name Thomas Cook has been a byword for quality travel. 1991 sees the 150th anniversary of the company and the chance for a select few to share the celebrations by going on a unique and exclusive 34-day, Around-the-World tour. The tour will comprise the very finest aspects of world travel, from the specially modified Tristar jet to some of the world's finest hotels; an opportunity to see seven wonders of the world; and a number of special events organised along the way. So if you're looking for the holiday of a lifetime, the trip lasts 34 days and costs £18,500.

Thomas Cook's first holiday excursion in 1841 was a simple train journey from Leicester to Loughborough and cost just one shilling for the return trip. A few years after this he was already pioneering tours to America, India, the Holy Land and Egypt, where his son built a magnificent fleet of Nile steamers. Cook made travel arrangements for everyone, from royalty downwards.

His greatest achievement, however, was probably to lead the first-ever organised tour to go round the world. It took

place in September 1872 and began with an Atlantic crossing on the White Star Line's "Oceanic", continuing overland by Pullman saloons across North America. The paddle-steamer "Colorado" then took the travellers peacefully across the Pacific on a 24-day journey.

Cook's tourists were enthralled by the "wonderful empire" of Japan. In India, Cook hired a private railway carriage, complete with "sleeping berths, baths and closets", keeping it for over three weeks and "attaching and detaching it where we liked for the whole 2,300 miles". The return journey was on the P&O liner "Hydaspes", sailing via the Suez Canal and visiting Egypt, Palestine and Italy.

The trip took 222 days and

proved a resounding success. What could be more fitting, therefore, than to celebrate this global achievement and the 150th birthday of the firm with a grand new journey around the world?

The 1991 Around-the-World tour will visit six continents and see seven wonders of the modern world in 34 days: Venice, the Pyramids, the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China, the terracotta warriors of Xian, Sydney Opera House, and the statues of Easter Island, not to mention natural marvels like Ayers Rock and Iguazu Falls.

To whisk customers effortlessly from place to place, Cook's have chartered a specially modified private jet from American Trans Air, who are used to flying the élite. The wide-bodied L1011

Venetian Dawn



Lockheed Tristar jet will be modified to first-class configuration throughout. Every possible attention to detail has been considered. Each passenger will receive an exclusive tour travel kit, and bouquets of fresh flowers

Egyptian Sunset



will be replenished at every stop as well as up-to-date magazines and newspapers.

There will be no time wasted in airport lounges, as check-ins will take place at the hotel wherever possible and baggage handling will be swift and smooth. Most of the flights are short, stress-free and within daylight hours, to help ensure that jet lag and internal-clock disruptions are kept to a minimum. And there will be overnight stays at most destinations.

The tour starts in an auspicious way. The first leg, between London and Venice, is on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, renowned for its style, elegance and luxurious standards. The impeccable, old-world service and fine

cuisine would have met with even Thomas Cook's approval. The hotels chosen for the tour speak for themselves—the Danielli in Venice; the Waldorf-Astoria in New York and the Copacabana Palace in Rio.

An array of celebrations and special events has been organised around the world. Egyptian belly dancers, Indian magicians, Chinese acrobats,

Warriors of China



The Falls of Iguazu



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will entertain. There will be banquets, a Maharajah's costume ball and a send-off by the Band of the Grenadier Guards. And, finally, a birthday party in New York with celebrities, fireworks and celebrations to crown 150

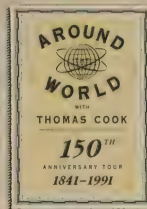
no normal holiday. It is a never-to-be-repeated opportunity to visit those far-flung places in a luxury hardly imaginable. There has already been a strong response from travellers so, if you're interested, now is the time to move in order to secure your place from the 144 available seats. If you'd like to find out more, please refer to our special invitation.

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# STRIKING GOLD

## THE NIMRUD TREASURE

An Assyrian queen's treasure, dating back 3,000 years, rivals that of Tutankhamen. By Massimo Cappon.

*The treasure of Princess Taba was found in the stone sarcophagus above. The necklace, left, has 28 gold drop beads, and the two bracelets, below, are decorated with ancient Egyptian motifs. Together these artifacts convey something of the magnificence of the discoverer on the Nimrud site, once the capital of Assyria, excavated by an Iraqi team.*



The discovery of the Nimrud treasure could make a story-board for the most trite Hollywood movie. The digger's pick sends back the echo of a cavity in the ground. A burial chamber is discovered. Men open a heavy stone sarcophagus with metal bars. And in the uncertain light of wavering torches, gold gleams from the darkness. But this time the story is true, and the discovery an extraordinary one. The place is Iraq.

The contents of two Assyrian royal tombs opened by Iraqi archaeologists in the spring and summer of 1989 comprise hundreds of jewels, items in ivory, alabaster, bronze, and more than 50 kilograms of gold. The discovery is one of the most sensational of recent decades, and comparisons have been made with the Tutankhamen treasure found in Egypt in 1922. The precious funerary equipment of the Assyrian queens Yaba and Ninlil Shumi Marmari, brought to light after 2,800 years, will indeed bear the comparison.

The area concerned was that of the palace of Assurnasirpal II, on the Nimrud acropolis, a few dozen kilometres from the other famous capital of the Assyrian empire, Nineveh (now Mosul). Situated at the foot of the huge ziggurat which dominated the city, the north-west palace was excavated as early as the mid-19th century by Henry Layard. He uncovered the splendid Lamassu, the winged bulls with human features which stood guard at the entrances, as well as bas-reliefs and carvings which are now in the British Museum. A century later his work was







carried on by Max Mallowan, accompanied for long periods after the war by his wife, Agatha Christie, who wrote one of the Hercule Poirot mysteries, *Murder in Mesopotamia*, at Nimrud.

Iraqi archaeologists continued excavating the site, more from duty than interest. The only one who thought the palace must conceal other treasures was the mission's last director, Muzahim Mahmoud. Then, in the spring of 1988, a first tomb, perhaps that of a eunuch, was discovered. It contained a small amount of funerary equipment, but what gave the find particular interest was its location: a chamber dug out below the inhabited level of the palace. His intuition now on the point of being vindicated, Mahmoud turned detective and set about searching for further underground chambers. And in the spring of 1989 came the first great discovery: a new chamber tomb, its ceiling made of rough brick. The access ramp was cleared, a brick obstruction removed, and the tomb was found to be intact.

In the centre of the chamber stood a large stone sarcophagus made, according to the numerous cuneiform inscriptions found around the entrance, for Yaba, the "palace woman" of Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 bc). Inside the sarcophagus a mantle sewn with tiny gold rosettes enclosed the remains of the young woman, together with an extraordinary collection of jewels: ear-rings, rings, ankle coils, bracelets and a magnificent pendant with 28 drop-beads.

But that was not the end. Within a few months another chamber tomb was located a few metres from the first one. More than 22 kilograms of gold, fashioned into 440 separate items, filled

*The large gold plate, right, is decorated with Egyptian hieroglyphic motifs, and is thought to be of Phoenician origin. The two rings, greatly enlarged above, are part of the priceless collection of jewellery which belonged to Princess Yaba, whose funeral garment was sewn all over with the tiny gold flowers below.*







*Of all the spectacular finds at the Nimrud excavations, few can compete with the crown of Princess Yaba, left, which, with the rest of the treasures, is now in a specially reinforced room in the Baghdad Museum. Below, one of the two Lamassu (winged bulls with human features) guarding the royal palace, which was first excavated in the mid-19th-century by Henry Layard.*



three large bronze coffins in the burial chamber of Ninlil Shumi Marmani, who is assumed to be one of the wives of Assurnasirpal II. Among the dozens of earrings, chains and bracelets there was a splendid gold crown decorated with flower, grape and pomegranate motifs, and a goblet of alabaster which left even the experts gasping with admiration.

In order to ensure that princess Yaba's treasure could be displayed fittingly, a reinforced room was created in the Baghdad Museum. The treasure is bound to arouse tremendous interest throughout the world, and it is already booked for a special display at New York's Metropolitan Museum. Meanwhile, the private collection of Ninlil Shumi Marmani is still being catalogued and restored.

Nimrud, the new Assyrian capital founded by Assurnasirpal II (883-859 BC) had more than 60,000 inhabitants and was surrounded by a wall more than eight kilometres long. The inscriptions found by Layard celebrate the glory of

"the great king, the powerful king, king of armies, who ruled the entire country from the Tigris to Lebanon, and all the lands from sunrise to sunset".

Now the excavation trenches stretch off into a windy, dust-swept plain which is dominated by the huge ziggurat. This stepped pyramid, made of earth, has been eroded to the point where it simply looks like a rounded hill, several tens of metres high. Referred to as Calah in the Bible, Nimrud enjoyed just 200 years of splendour before being destroyed in 612 BC by an army of Babylonians and Medes, in a punitive expedition which put an end to Assyrian domination.

The site being investigated by the Iraqi mission covers one wing of the royal palace. A simple sheet of corrugated iron, held down by bricks, covers the entrance to each of the tombs. Once this is removed, short wooden ladders lead down into the hidden chamber, which now contains nothing remarkable except the huge, square, stone sarcophagus. All the funerary equipment was transferred to Baghdad museum under police escort and the Department of Antiquities became its jealous guardian. Perhaps the most striking of the pieces is a large gold plate, embossed with Egyptian motifs and almost certainly of Phoenician manufacture. Many of the jewels recovered must have come to Nimrud as the spoils of war or as gifts from other courts.

The Assyrians, a warlike people who came to the forefront of the world stage in the last millennium BC, extended their empire over the most of the Middle East, far beyond the boundaries of the "land between two rivers"—Mesopotamia, lying between the Tigris and the Euphrates—where they had originated. They

are remembered above all for their battles of conquest and for the ferocious ruthlessness of their powerful kings Assurnasirpal, Sargon, Sennacherib—in putting down rebellions. But the discoveries of the funerary equipment will necessitate a reassessment of these people. Such beauty reveals an aestheticism that is difficult to square with the barbarous image of the Assyrian court.

Not far from the north-west palace of Assurnasirpal II, an Italian mission has been working, side by side with a team from the British Museum, in Fort Shalmaneser in the lower part of the city. In previous years a storehouse of weapons was found, containing hundreds of ivory fragments and armour-plates. Among the recent discoveries, one of the most interesting is a big incense-burning cart made of bronze and iron, showing the crenellated towers and walls which surrounded the city.

"We have been working on a level dated soon after the destruction of Nimrud," says Paolo Fiorina, leader of the Italian team. "We are particularly interested in the daily life of the city, we want to understand how these people, whose mud houses were so close to the great royal palaces, lived and behaved." The archaeologists have found many deposits left by the common people: little clay figures with human features, buried in boxes in the corners of the rooms, simple pendants, of ivory or shell, and other everyday objects. The finds could never compete with the magnificent treasures of the royal princesses of the Assyrian court. But they are more representative of the people who lived, 3,000 years ago, in the shadow of the ziggurat of Nimrud □





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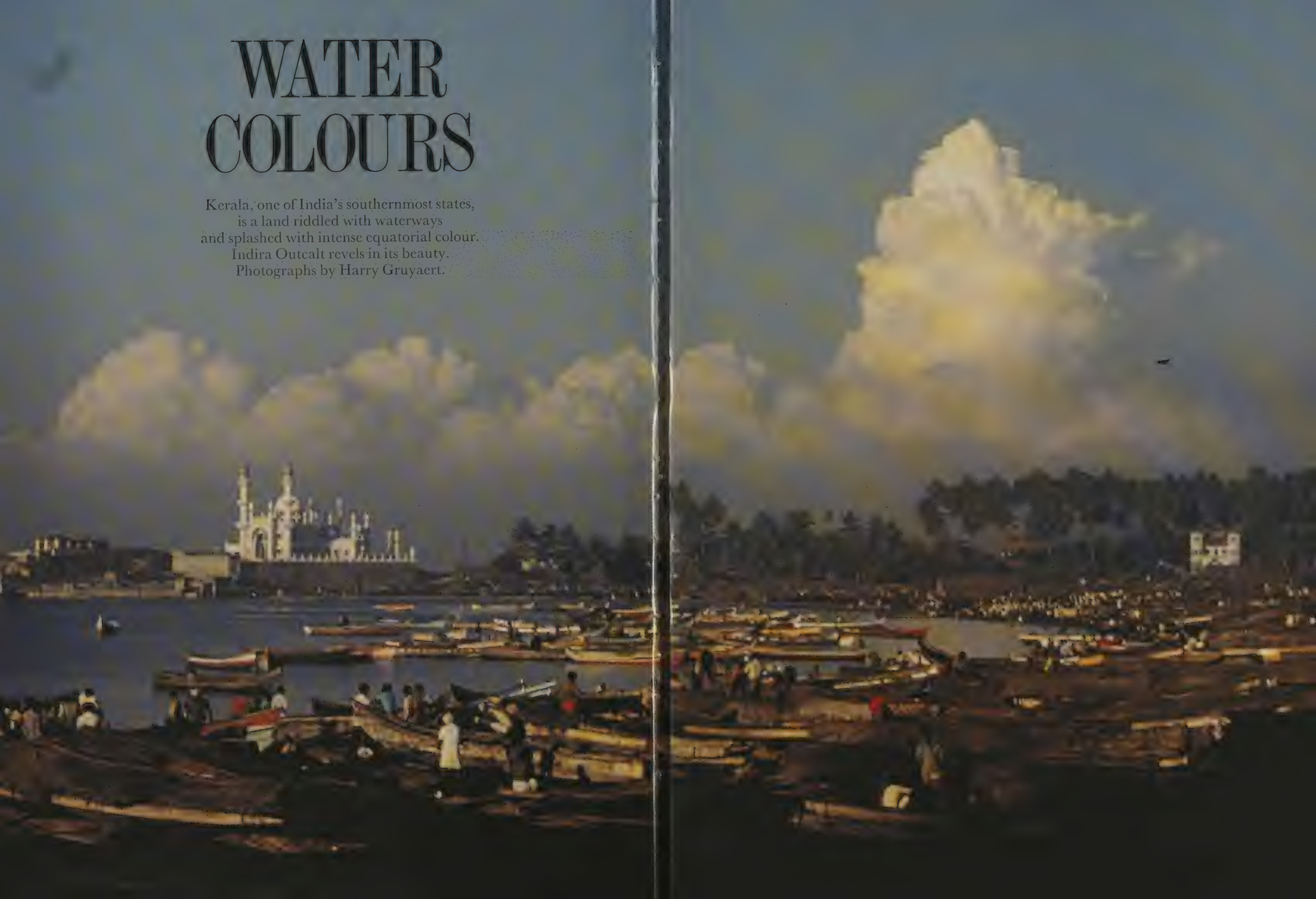


# WATER COLOURS

Kerala, one of India's southernmost states,  
is a land riddled with waterways  
and splashed with intense equatorial colour.

Indira Outcalt revels in its beauty.

Photographs by Harry Gruyaert.







*A duckherd punts in a backwater, above. There are also pleasure trips, right, and lengthy journeys with coconut husks for coir manufacture, below right. Previous page, the fishing fleet in Quilon harbour.*

Only a few degrees north of the equator lies the magic triangle of India. As it narrows southwards it comes to a point at Cape Comorin, where the Arabian Sea meets the Indian Ocean. Just north-west of here, on India's south-west coast, lies a region shaped like a banana leaf and bordered by the Western Ghats, a mountain range which has protected the area from invaders for centuries. This is the state of Kerala.

Here the vegetation is verdant, watered and washed. And there is a redolence of fresh, moist, red earth. This theme of moisture runs right through Kerala. Water is everywhere—in the monsoons, in the rivers, in the backwaters and in the sea.

The coastal lowlands make rich farmland. Rice, the staple food, grows like a pale green velvet carpet from the flooded paddy-fields, yielding up to three harvests a year. Other products of the fertile soil are sugar-cane, pineapples, cashews and 100 different kinds of banana. Trees provide shade as well as valuable timber

and exotic fruit—mango, jackfruit, coconuts, betel-nuts and papaya among them. In the hot, moist conditions everything grows prolifically.

Driving inland, through the foothills and up into the mountains, you pass first the regimented ranks of rubber and cocoa trees and then the plantations of tea and coffee bushes. Also, there are spices: shiny green berries that dry into the peppercorns we know, cardamom, cloves, cinnamon, turmeric and ginger. And, of course, chillies. It was the spice trade that made Kerala as cosmopolitan as it is today.

Its eastern range of mountains kept it safe from inland invaders—even the Moguls never conquered this part of the sub-continent—but its long coastline invited visitors from across the sea: Phoenicians, Arabs, Jews, Chinese and Portuguese. The first Christians arrived here before the Gospels reached Rome. Today Hindus make up 50 per cent of the population, Christians 25 per cent, Moslems 20 per cent and Jews 5 per cent.

The benign dictatorships of the













*The martial art of Kalaripayattu is rehearsed with wooden sticks in Calicut, but steel swords are used for display fighting. Previous page, swampy waters in the lowlands make the soil rich and fertile.*

Cochin and Travancore maharajahs laid the foundations for a considerate society. The modern state of Kerala was formed in 1956 out of the Malayalam-speaking principalities of the region—Malabar, Travancore and Cochin. It was the first in the world to elect a Communist government and the ensuing land-reforms ensure that even the lowliest had a patch to cultivate. Although Kerala is one of the poorest states in India, nobody starves.

Twenty-five million people live in this densely-populated area the size of Switzerland. Half the budget is spent on education; the literacy rate is twice that of any other part of India, and the birth rate the lowest. Many Malayalis speak English and, being an inquisitive and affable people, welcome visitors with generous hospitality and innumerable questions: "What is your religion?" "How much do you earn?" "What is your relationship with this good lady?"

Go and enjoy this paradoxical paradise for yourself. Do not hurry through Kerala. The urban centres of Cannanore

and Calicut, Trichur, Cochin, Kottayam, Quilon and Trivandrum are strung along a necklace of rail and road. Town by town it may not add up to much; here you travel for travel's sake. There seem to be people everywhere: men dressed in clean white shirts and dhotis, women in brilliantly-coloured saris. On the streets it is surprisingly difficult to tell the well-to-do from the rest, as the working class here is better off than elsewhere in India.

Train travel in Kerala, as in the rest of India, is the only way of life for the tourist. The land unfolds in a rich tapestry and all civilisation seems to gather where the train stops. Mile for mile, Indian trains offer one of the cheapest modes of transport in the world. The buses, although even cheaper, are bone-jarring, and while taxis are convenient, the driving is likely to take your breath away.

For nature-lovers Kerala offers one of the best beaches in India at Kovalam near Trivandrum. There is a unique wildlife sanctuary at Periyar Lake,





*Among the most spectacular sights in Kerala is the Pooram festival. It is held at Trichur and features 30 fully-caparisoned elephants. Tradition and ceremony are important throughout India.*

where the most comfortable way to see big game like elephants, bison, tigers and bears is from the safety of a motor launch. Take one of the boat trips along the 55 miles of shady backwater from Quilon. Stop off in Cochin—high in historical interest but low in charm—to see a Kathakali dance drama, for which the performers are trained from the age of five.

The best time of year to visit Kerala is from November to February when the heat is tolerable and the rains infrequent. Or go and drench yourself during the monsoon, between June and September. The fierce tropical gusts of pounding rain transform the land and the sea. During the Onam festival, which lasts for 10 days in early September and heralds the end of the monsoon, you can see the passionate oarsmen in the snake-boat race at Aranmula. Rural Kerala is full of ritual and tradition.

At whatever time of year you decide to visit the region, however, its natural beauty will delight you. Kerala is a tropical paradise, as leisurely as the graceful boats that ply its many waterways.

□ In London this autumn there are two exhibitions for devotees of India. The Raj: India and the British, 1600-1947, runs at the National Portrait Gallery from October 19 to March 17, 1991. It explores the relationship between British and Indian society through paintings, prints and photographs, with textiles, furnishings and documents. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2H 0HE. Tel: 071-306 0055.

In November the Victoria and Albert Museum opens its Nehru Gallery of Indian Art, 1550-1900. This provides the museum with a chance to re-exhibit many of its 35,000 Indian artifacts, highlighting the country's courtly artistic tradition. Two lavishly-illustrated books will be published by the V & A to herald the gallery's opening: *The Arts of India 1550-1900*, £19.95, displaying decorative arts from pre-Mogul India to Independence, and *Indian Animals*, containing images of animals from the museum's vast pictorial archive, £9.95. Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL. Tel: 071-938 8349.



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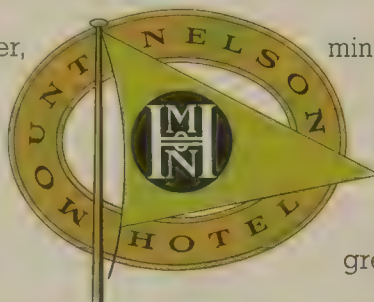
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garlic; seafood;  
gazpacho;  
scrambled egg  
with wild  
mushrooms; and  
marinated quail.*

Tapas: Spanish  
snacks, nibbles  
to go with wine.  
Polly Tyrer  
explains how you  
can make a  
meal of them.  
Photographs by  
Roger Stowell.

# TAPAS ¡OLE!





## A SIMPLE AND TASTY TAPA FRESH FIGS SERVED WITH SPICY SAUSAGE

**T**he Spaniards have always cared a great deal about what they eat. Wherever you go in Spain you will eat well, whether your budget runs to bean stew or lobster, always providing you stay away from tourist traps. As mealtimes fall at around two o'clock in the afternoon and 10 o'clock at night, the Spaniards are great snack eaters, and they very sensibly rarely drink without eating something. Consequently all the bars are full of interesting bits and pieces to nibble. These are called tapas and are similar in many ways to French hors d'oeuvres, Italian antipasti or Greek mezes.

The tradition of serving tapas is thought to have originated in the arid region of Andalusia, an area heavily influenced by the Moors, and with air full of the smell of wild garlic and thyme. In the bars a few slices of *chorizo* sausage or a few olives would always be given with a glass of sherry or wine. The customer was happy to have something to eat; the bar owner was happy as the food encouraged a thirst; and both were happy to pop the saucer of olives or sausage over the glass to keep out the dust and flies. Hence the name: the Spanish verb *tapar* means to cover. Tapas are now part of the Spanish way of life and tapas bars are becoming increasingly fashionable in England.

In the large towns of Spain tapas bars have undergone a sort of *nouvelle cuisine* transformation. Surroundings have become more comfortable, wine arrives in large glasses instead of small tumblers full to the brim and dessert-sized forks are supplied so that you need not

scoop the tapas up with your fingers or bread. The hypermarkets now found throughout Spain offer a range of ingredients that was previously unobtainable. This is reflected in the food found in the bars.

Tapas can be served in several ways. Prepared dishes, such as meatballs or ragout, are displayed cooked, to be re-heated in portions. Platters of salads are ready to serve; but fresh food—mussels, prawns, marinated livers or pork, tender baby artichokes—are kept on ice, ready to be snacked on to a hot griddle and delivered sizzling to the customer. Sandwiches are no longer dry French rolls filled with a lump of cheese or sausage, but have been replaced by *montaditos*—miniature baps filled with tuna, tomato, smoked salmon, soft cheese, or egg with lumpfish roe.

A visit to a busy tapas bar is a unique experience. The place will be heaving with people, all vying for a table or a place at the bar. The atmosphere and noise resemble a fish market on a Monday morning, with waiters yelling their orders across the bar to the chef who is stationed by the hot *plancha* (griddle). Amazingly, your order materialises, and the waiter seems to know exactly what you have had to eat and drink when you come to settle up at the end of the evening.

Practically anything and everything can be made into tapas. They can be as complicated or as simple as you like. Dishes such as stuffed pig's trotter or squid, *zarzuela* (fish stew or *empanadillas*—melt-in-the-mouth pasties filled with tuna or tomato and peppers—take time and care to prepare. *Tortilla*,

which is the genuine Spanish potato omelette, is simply made but takes patience. The diced potato is fried slowly in olive oil until cooked; the egg is added and the mixture is turned on to a plate and back into the pan up to eight times to produce the correct texture.

Many dishes, however, are simple and quick to prepare. Grilled sardines, prawns with *alioli*, fried quails' eggs or a thick slice of beefsteak tomato garnished with olive oil and chopped young garlic can all be prepared in a few minutes. If you are really pushed for time, much can be made with food straight from the delicatessen or supermarket. Tins of mixed pepper or bean salad, dishes of olives—plain, stuffed or mixed with oil and tabasco—and packets of salted almonds fall into this category. Serano ham, which is cured in the mountains, can be served thinly sliced or cut into chunks (Italian Parma ham may be easier to find and serves just as well). *Chorizo*, the classic Spanish paprika sausage, can be served hot or cold, or try milder sausages and salamis sliced with figs.


There are two basic requirements for a tapas-cooking session. The cast-iron *plancha*, the mainstay of all tapas bars, is used for cooking nearly everything, including eggs, meat, roast peppers, toasted sandwiches, mussels and clams. Using a cast-iron or very heavy-based, well-proved frying pan on top of the stove works in a similar way. The second requirement is extra virgin or virgin olive oil.

Although traditional tapas are snacks or nibbles, they can be made into a buffet or supper party at home. Choose a balanced selection of food, with some substantial items. Eight dishes should be plenty. Serve French bread, plain or toasted, in a cast-iron pan brushed with olive oil. The food can be presented all together or organised into courses of salads, fish dishes, meat and vegetables.

Sweet dishes do not usually feature in tapas bars but it might be nice to offer one. Crème caramel would be suitable, and you could enliven it with a few strawberries on the side. Alternatively, you could serve *churros*, like those which are sold from street stands all over Spain. They are deep-fried "sausages" of choux pastry dusted with sugar and often served with very thick hot chocolate. To make a similar dessert, deep-fry spoonfuls of choux and serve with chocolate, apricot or raspberry sauce. If you prefer something simpler, assorted fingers of fruit dipped into Greek yoghurt are delicious.

It is not possible to write about tapas without a mention of wines, for tapas, after all, were intended simply to accompany drink. Full-bodied red wines, very dry chilled sherry and lager-type beers are the best choice. Rioja is the best-known Spanish wine. It costs from about £3 a bottle and the more expensive ones can be outstanding. But there are now plenty of other Spanish wines to choose from. Valdepeñas and Toro are particularly good, or you could try La Mancha for a reasonable quality table wine. Spain is not best known for its white wines, and white wine, anyway, does not complement this highly-spiced food. A glass of vinho verde, the crisp, slightly sparkling wine of Portugal, would be a better choice. And remember that still and sparkling mineral water is a must for every party, and also typically Spanish.





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## ANGULAS

In Spain baby eels have suffered the same fate as oysters in Britain: both were once plentiful and cheap and are now quite a luxury. Eels have a delicate, fishy flavour, and eating them is rather like eating whitebait. A wooden fork should be given with angulas as they are very difficult to pick up with a metal one.

4oz/100g baby eels  
4 tbsp olive oil  
1 clove garlic, sliced  
½ red chilli.

Pat the eels dry with absorbent paper. Cut the chilli in half and carefully remove and discard the seeds.

Heat the oil on top of the stove in a fireproof dish. Add the garlic and then the chilli when the garlic begins to sizzle. Add the eels.

Remove the dish from the heat, cover with a saucer and bring to the table before uncovering.

Serves four as a tapa or three for a buffet.

## GAZPACHO SALAD

2 tomatoes, peeled  
½ green pepper, sliced  
½ red pepper, sliced  
¼ small onion, sliced  
For the dressing  
4 tbsp olive oil  
1 tbsp tomato juice  
dash of lemon juice  
dash of Tabasco  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
salt and ground black pepper

Cut the tomatoes into eighths and mix with the peppers and onion.

Mix all dressing ingredients together in a jar and shake well. Pour over the salad and leave to stand for one hour before serving.

Serves four as a tapa or three for a buffet.

## HAKE WITH RED PEPPER

12oz/300g hake fillets (or any other white fish)  
1oz/25g plain flour  
2 tsp paprika  
1 small red pepper, sliced  
1 tbsp olive oil  
1oz/25g butter or margarine

Cut the fish into 1in/2cm cubes. Mix the flour and paprika together. Put the fish into a large sieve or colander and pour the flour mixture over it. Toss the fish in the flour until evenly coated.

Heat the oil in a heavy-based frying pan. Add the butter, and when sizzling add the fish cubes and sliced pepper. Toss over a brisk heat until the fish is golden brown and feels firm to touch. Serve at once.



## PLACED OVER GLASSES OF SHERRY OR WINE, TAPAS KEPT OUT THE FLIES

Serves six as a tapa or three for a buffet.

## NEW POTATOES IN OLIVE OIL

8oz/225g baby new potatoes, scrubbed  
3 tbsp olive oil  
coarsely-ground salt

Set the oven to 500°F/250°C/Gas mark 9.

Simmer the potatoes in salted water for 5-10 minutes or until they can just be pierced with a knife. Drain well.

Heat the oil in a roasting pan until sizzling. Turn the potatoes into the hot oil and roast in the pre-heated oven for about 10 minutes. The potatoes should be cooked through and crisp and brown on the outside.

Serve at once, sprinkled with plenty of salt.

Serves four as a tapa or two-three for a buffet.

## LIVER WITH YOUNG GARLIC

4oz/100g lambs', chickens' or calves' liver  
3 cloves young garlic, chopped  
fresh coriander leaves to decorate  
For the marinade  
2 tsp balsamic vinegar  
1 tbsp olive oil  
½ tsp ground coriander

dash of Tabasco  
salt and ground black pepper

Young garlic is milder and juicier than ordinary garlic, which has started to dry out and develop a strong flavour. It usually appears during the summer months and it can be recognised by the large cloves and pinkish skin. If you cannot find it, substitute 1 clove of garlic and 2 spring onions.

Cut the liver into thin slivers. Mix all the marinade ingredients together and pour over the sliced liver. Leave to marinade for at least one hour.

Heat a heavy-based pan and, when piping hot, use a draining spoon to transfer the liver into the pan, add the garlic and toss over a brisk heat for about two minutes until the liver is just cooked, and brown on the outside.

Serve immediately, decorated with the fresh coriander.

Serves four as a tapa or two for a buffet.

## PALM HEART SALAD

2 tbsp mayonnaise  
2 tsp tomato ketchup  
dash of Tabasco  
lemon juice  
2oz/50g fresh crab or lobster meat

½ ripe avocado pear, peeled and sliced  
2 sticks of palm heart (tinned), sliced  
1 tbsp black or red lumpfish roe  
salt and ground black pepper

Mix the mayonnaise and ketchup together and season with the Tabasco and lemon juice. Gently stir the crab, avocado and palm hearts into the mayonnaise mixture, taking care not to break up the ingredients. Season with salt and ground black pepper.

Pile on to a serving plate and decorate either with a large spoonful of lumpfish roe, or by arranging the roe with a knife in stripes across the top of the salad.

Serves four as a tapa or two for a buffet.

## DATES WRAPPED IN BACON

8 fresh dates  
8 whole blanched almonds  
8 rashers streaky bacon, rind removed  
oil for deep frying

With a sharp knife, split each date lengthwise along the top and remove the stone. Fill the cavity with a whole almond. Roll each date up in a rasher of bacon.

Heat the oil until a piece of bread will sizzle vigorously in it. Fry the date rolls until the bacon is golden coloured. Drain on absorbent paper and serve.

Allow two per person for a tapa and three for a buffet.

## SEAFOOD ZARZUELA

2 tbsp olive oil  
½ medium onion, finely chopped  
1 tomato, peeled and chopped  
½ red pepper, chopped  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
¼pt/150ml white wine  
¼pt/150ml fish stock  
2 tbsp brandy  
salt and ground black pepper  
4oz/100g squid  
1oz/25g ground almonds  
4oz/100g mussels  
4oz/100g small clams  
4oz/100g whole prawns

To make the fish stock, ask the fishmonger for some trimmings, simmer for 20 minutes with a slice of onion, a carrot and a bay leaf—or use a fish stock cube.

Slowly fry the onion, tomato, pepper and garlic in the olive oil for about 20 minutes, until very soft and transparent but not coloured. Add the wine, stock and brandy and season with salt and black pepper. Bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes.

Clean the squid: pull the head and tentacles from the body. Cut



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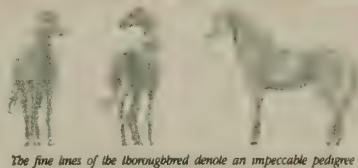


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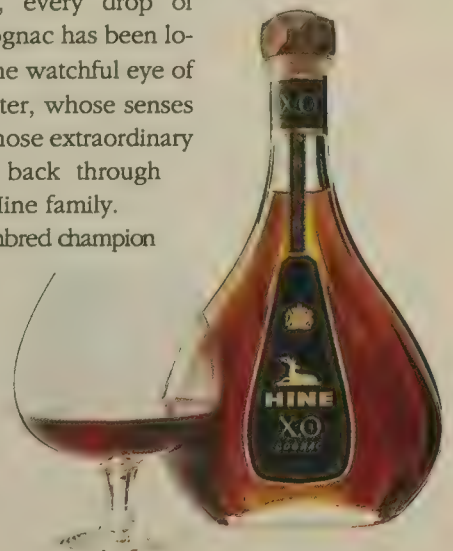
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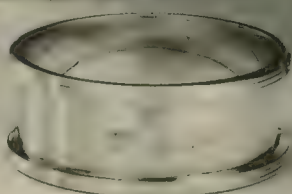
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off the tentacles and discard the head and entrails. Wash the body, pull off the skin, and remove the clear cartilage. Cut the body into rings and the tentacles into small pieces. When the sauce is cooked add the squid and simmer for a further five minutes. Stir in the ground almonds.

Make sure the clams and mussels are still alive by tapping them. Discard any that remain open and scrub the rest.

Bring the *zarzuela* to simmering point, add the mussels, clams and whole prawns. Cover and cook over a very low heat for five minutes or until the mussels and clams have opened. Discard any that stay closed. Serve immediately, straight from the pot.

Serves six as a tapa or four for a buffet.

### SCRAMBLED EGG WITH WILD MUSHROOMS

1 tbsp olive oil  
4 eggs  
4oz/100g wild mushrooms (large, flat ones may be substituted)  
salt and ground black pepper  
chives  
French bread

Beat the eggs well and season with salt and ground black pepper. Slice the wild mushrooms.

Heat the oil in a heavy-based pan, add the mushrooms and fry briskly until cooked. Pour the eggs into the pan and, keeping the heat high, swish the mixture around until it begins to set.

Turn the eggs on to a plate, sprinkle with chopped chives, and serve with French bread.

Serves four as a tapa or two for a buffet.

### SALT COD AND ROAST PEPPER SALAD

4oz/100g dried salt cod  
½ pt/150ml olive oil  
½ green pepper  
½ red pepper  
2oz/50g aubergine, sliced  
½ small onion, sliced  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
1 tbsp black olives  
ground black pepper

Skin and trim the salt cod and cut into wafer-thin slices. Put into a dish and cover with three tablespoons of the olive oil. Cover tightly and leave to soak overnight in the refrigerator.

Next day cut the peppers in half and remove the seeds and membrane. Place them skin side up, under a hot grill until the skin is charred. Leave to cool. Peel the skin away and chop the peppers into ½ in/1 cm chunks.

Put the remaining tablespoon

of olive oil into a heavy-based frying pan. When hot add the sliced aubergine, onion and garlic. Fry slowly for 15-20 minutes until transparent. Leave to cool.

Mix the salt cod with all the oil, peppers and aubergine mixture. Stir in the black olives and season with black pepper. Turn into a serving dish.

Serves six as a tapa or four for a buffet.

### GRIDDLED CHEESE WITH OIL AND MARJORAM

Handful of lollo rosso or oak-leaf lettuce, washed and dried  
1 tbsp olive oil  
4 slices Gouda breakfast cheese (ready sliced)  
pinch of dried marjoram

Tear the lettuce into pieces and use to cover the base of a small plate.

Use half the olive oil to grease the base of a cast-iron frying pan, heat until piping hot. Lay the slices of cheese, one at a time, on the hot pan. Leave for a few seconds and when it begins to bubble and melt gather it up with a fish slice. The cheese will pleat like a fan. Lay it on top of the lettuce. Repeat with the other slices, arranging the cheese in a row.

Dribble the remaining oil over the cheese and sprinkle with marjoram. This dish *must* be eaten immediately.

Serves four as a tapa or two-three for a buffet.

### SOUSED QUAIL

2 quails  
½ pt/150ml white wine  
2 tbsp water  
2 tbsp balsamic vinegar  
1 small onion, peeled and quartered  
2 bay leaves  
12 peppercorns  
6 juniper berries  
1 tsp salt  
ground black pepper

Wash the quails and pack tightly into a small saucepan or fireproof dish. Mix together the wine, water and vinegar. Scatter the onion, bay leaf, peppercorns and juniper berries over the quails and pour the liquid over them. Add the salt and season well with ground black pepper.

Set over a very low heat on top of the stove and simmer for about 1½ hours. The liquid should be slightly reduced and the quails well cooked, with the meat just about to fall from the bone.

Leave to cool in the juices and serve straight from the pan.

Serves four as a tapa or two for a buffet.



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# BLAIR TAKES ON BALMAIN

"Within 24 hours I was hired." The French fashion house of Balmain has turned to British designer Alistair Blair to spice up its ready-to-wear. Jane Mulvagh asks him how he plans to tackle this daunting task.



Alistair Blair has a tough job ahead of him: to revive the Balmain ready-to-wear label. Although Balmain is one of the most prestigious couture houses in Paris no one, not even the staff there, can easily identify a house style. An assortment of opinions is proffered: "Oh, Balmain did very pretty, very feminine clothes"; "the best workshops in Paris"; "the embroideries, so beautiful"; "frankly, Pierre Balmain was not a fashion innovator, you see the clothes were very *jolie madame*".

I asked Valerie Mendes, Curator of Textiles, Furnishings and Dress at the Victoria and Albert Museum, what she recalled of Pierre Balmain's work. "It's those lavish bouffant evening gowns; he used to trade on that. Balmain was always being photographed with princesses and stars—Queen Marie-José of Italy, Marlene Dietrich, Rita Hayworth and Brigitte Bardot—who were wearing his latest creations. But what's so nice is that Blair will bring his tailored approach to the house. It will make a wonderful change."

Many established Parisian houses have been resuscitated by internationally recognised designers appointed to promote the label and win press acclaim. And by no means all of them have been French. Rather than live up to their Gallic reputation for chauvinism by closing the door on foreign talent, the French have welcomed it. In the early 80s, for example, Jacques Mouclier, President of the *Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne*, embraced the oriental invasion and invited the Japanese to show in Paris. The French absorbed the new influences and benefited from the inevitable financial spin-offs. Similarly, they have applauded the appointment of Karl Lagerfeld, a German, to Chanel, Gianfranco Ferré, an Italian, to Dior, and now Blair, a Scot, to Balmain. Standing by the Common Market philosophy of pan-European specialisation, the French are determined to maintain Paris's position as the centre of high fashion.

Most of these appointees were working in the more newsworthy couture *métier* and have had very strong images to

maintain or react against. Blair, 33, has neither of these advantages. Pierre Balmain had no interest in ready-to-wear, so how is Blair going to cope with the nebulous Balmain image? I joined him for lunch and asked him how he intended to approach this challenge.

"If there ever was a Balmain image," he said, "it has been lost, so there's no point in referring to the past." In March this year a friend put his name forward to the house and he was invited to submit sketches based on the house style. "A week later I presented them with 50; I could see that they were not convinced and was glad they agreed that there was no house style to work with. So I returned a week later with 120 abstractly-inspired sketches. I think they were won over by the sheer quantity—as well as the fact that I had ignored that *jolie madame* image which is uptight and irrelevant today. Within 24 hours I was hired."

Blair's approach to fashion is very realistic—a realism born of his long and thorough apprenticeship in Paris. Graduating from St Martin's School of Art in London, he went straight to Paris and has worked with the most prestigious names in French fashion, including Marc Bohan at Dior, Karl Lagerfeld at Chloé, and at Givenchy. At Dior under Marc Bohan, whom he likes enormously, he began his training.

"When I arrived there the French staff were polite but kept their distance until they learnt that I was Scottish not English, then their attitude changed distinctly! I had heard that Bohan was supposed to be difficult but I always found him polite and encouraging. I wouldn't say that he was a good teacher but no one who is that busy has time to teach. He didn't hide anything—techniques, suppliers, problems—and through osmosis I learnt from this man who had worked alongside Christian Dior in the 50s."

A spell working with the witty and creative Lagerfeld familiarised Blair with the ready-to-wear market. "I was the first design assistant Chloé had taken on for 18 years and we built up a very young studio. Having spent 10 months in Paris I moved to Chloé in New York,





*This gown of gold  
tafetia, left,  
shows the original  
Balmain style.  
Blair, right,  
plans to introduce a  
more tailored approach,  
as in these uniforms  
he designed for  
the Orient-Express  
check-in staff.*





*This year saw the last time Alistair Blair showed ready-to-wear under his own label. From now on, his talents will be on display in Paris. These two chic outfits give a taste of things to come, chez Balmain.*

thing rich and opulent and this is basically something that the Englishwoman is not interested in. He's too 'French'. Balmain will give him the freedom to bring out all his bottled-up talent. Of all the British designers he's the one who most deserves to do well."

Under his own label Blair gained a reputation for wearable, tailored clothes with the cut and finish of their French counterparts. He ignored the youth and street-fashion movements that dominated London in the mid 80s and shunned the temptation to become a fashion "personality". Blair was saluted for his modesty and his down-to-earth approach in an industry that can inflate egos ridiculously. "Those days of the designer superstar are finished. Women aren't looking for a label, they are looking at the cost and the quality."

Such fashion realism is rooted in his association with Jaeger, for which he designs a well-priced womenswear collection, and Moss Bros, where he acts as design consultant on menswear. "I may design the same T-shirt for Jaeger and Balmain, one in a synthetic at £5 a metre the other in silk at £20 a metre, but it's the same design effort and the Jaeger customer is just as appreciative."

Blair has to commute between his London flat and a Paris hotel and his two-season Balmain contract will be renegotiated next year if both parties are satisfied. His de luxe Balmain collection, to be launched in October, will hinge on tailored, interchangeable garments and restrained elegance. "I don't think that there's a reaction against expensive clothes but certainly against the silly gimmicks of the last decade. And that doesn't mean endless blue blazers! Women will still buy expensive items—a jacket or a coat—but they expect to wear them over several years. Jean Muir was right when she said the 60s were the worst thing that had happened to British fashion—that shoddy, throw-away mentality. That's all gone; and with the environmental issue, so it should."

He realises that "the sort of woman I will be designing for has money to spend and travels a lot. She can see the competition and what other women are wearing all round the world and the choice is



where Lagerfeld opened a design studio, so I had experience in the important American market."

Peder Bertelsen, the fashion impresario, enticed Blair back to London with the promise of an eponymous ready-to-wear label. For such a young designer it was a huge compliment but he soon craved the creative environment of Paris. "You can't possibly compare London and Paris fashion. Here you have to start from zilch, there's nothing. It's difficult to find materials, accessories, buttons, staff... everything! It may sound petty but in London you can't get a zip of a certain length or a particular colour button or five metres of fabric—you have to order 500. It's impossible!"

Susannah Constantine, who worked with Blair and is now one of his most devoted customers, says, "I was with him for three and a half years. The most important thing was that we established a friendship that will last a lifetime. He's so enormously talented, but as far as he's concerned his talents were restricted in this country. He has an eye for every-



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90/654




*Following in the footsteps of his previous mentor Karl Lagerfeld, Alistair Blair designs signature collections for several noted fashion houses. Shown above, a sumptuous cashmere jacket for Ballantynes.*

hers." But do not expect show-stopping fantasy from Blair. "I'm not a fantasy designer. I couldn't be and I don't think that's where fashion's going. It's all going to be a lot quieter, more restrained. But fashion's not going to die, people are too vain. And it's such a mammoth industry that the hype and advertising alone will keep it going."

The 120-130 interchangeable pieces in his debut collection will all be saleable individually. "I want every one of those garments to be a seller, not like the razz-matazz shows that present 500 outfits of which only 80 are wearable and will sell. What's the point? It's such a waste."

According to Blair, many of the media, particularly glossy magazines, have lost sight of the contemporary woman's needs. "Nobody is wearing those ridiculous clothes you see in magazines. And there's no conviction from the editors and stylists—when you meet them they're certainly not wearing the stuff and don't really believe in it. That's when the customer starts getting confused. And on top of all that the clothes





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## Roger Renfrew was a keen photographic safari enthusiast.

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*Jaeger is another well-known name which has turned to Blair for fashion direction. Above, an outfit from the new autumn collection.*

are getting more expensive. There's little knowledgeable service in shops, and some of those Sloane Street places just specialise in a perverse intimidation of the customers. It's only fashion, clothes. I mean, we're not curing cancer!"

Fortunately Blair has an open-ended budget to play with at Balmain though he does not intend to abuse that as his job is on the line. The company directors have no plans, as yet, to revamp the couture, but are relaunching the scent, Ivoire, and the men's fragrance, Monsieur Balmain. In 1992 they will launch a new women's scent, and Blair is delighted that he is being consulted on all aspects of Balmain's future.

In 1950 Pierre Balmain declared: "Only the natural is viable, for the gesture of woman will undo the artifice of constrained fashion." Being suspicious of "fashion revolutions"—no doubt a jibe at his rival, Christian Dior—his signature was the wearable, the flattering and the well-constructed. Clearly Alistair Blair is a worthy successor to this master of beguiling, feminine clothing □





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A dramatic, low-key photograph featuring a glass of whisky in the upper left and a bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label Scotch Whisky in the lower right. The bottle is tilted, and its label is clearly visible, showing the brand name and 'BLACK LABEL'. The background is dark, creating a sophisticated and moody atmosphere.

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# TRAVEL SECRETS

An insider's guide to the tricks of touring safely on safari, by Land Rover, light aircraft, or camel.

● The golden rule when scouring travel brochures for a safari holiday is: don't cut corners. The success of a trip into the bush is largely dependent on equipment, such as Land Rovers and tents, and on the knowledge and competence of your driver/guide. These are the first areas where cheaper companies try to save money, and where money cannot be saved. Nothing could be more depressing than being stranded for hours on a lonely road in a broken-down van or returning to camp without seeing any animals, simply because a novice guide did not know where to go.

● Safaris can vary from those which shunt you between tourist lodges where animals come to water (rather like going from one zoo to another) to the real, back-to-nature walking kind in which you stay in tented camps, travel along rivers in canoes, and are accompanied by guides with guns to protect you. (This is the type of safari most *aficionados* recommend.) Other tours drive you around the game reserves in minibuses—probably the best way to see a wide range of animals—but this can be tiresome when a horde of vehicles full of camera-toting tourists descends on a poor lion trying to have a quiet doze in the sun.

● If you're flying to Nairobi, beware of Kenya's latest scam. When arriving at the airport make sure that your passport is stamped with an entry visa, otherwise when you leave you may be charged with being an illegal immigrant and forced to buy your way out. A couple travelling from Geneva recently found that having handed both passports in together, his was stamped, but hers was not. Upon departure, he produced their Swissair tickets, argued that she was his wife and that they always travelled together. No matter. Armed police were summoned and she eventually paid £200 to get out. Visitors to Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, had a similar experience.

● In Nairobi, Teddy Roosevelt used to stay at the colonial-style Norfolk Hotel—still the best place from which to embark on a safari. Don't go out of your way



TONY STONE/CHRIS HARVEY

*Mount Kilimanjaro looms over the Amboseli National Park.*

to see the run-down national museum but visit Diane Sheldrick's Animal Orphanage which cares for baby animals (mainly rhinos and elephants) most of whose parents have been poached. Also Giraffe Manor, where giraffes come right up to this English-style house to be hand-fed.

● Travel by light aircraft between game reserves whenever possible. (There are several good agencies in Nairobi.) Driving can be rough: the roads are often strewn with boulders and potholes, and the distances between camps are enormous.

● Masai Mara has traditionally been the best reserve in Kenya for viewing a wide range of animals. However recent climatic changes resulting in the wildebeest's failure to migrate has caused a (hopefully temporary) depletion in numbers. Stay at Little Governor's Camp and book in advance for a hot-air balloon flight. Amboseli offers more limited game viewing in a lovely location: egret-inhabited marshes overlooked by snow-capped Kilimanjaro. Samburu is big-cat country, but is not recommended at the height of the season when it can become too crowded and touristy. Escape to Lake Borgeia to view beautiful birdlife in relative peace and quiet. Mt Kenya Safari Club offers a luxurious break from game-viewing: golf, fishing and swimming among manicured lawns.

● For holidays with a difference in Kenya, try camel safaris, travelling through half-desert, half-mountain terrain in the north. Or, farther south, journey by the African Queen riverboat along the Tana River (excellent opportunities for viewing game along the banks) to the luxurious camp in its delta, close to Malindi. The camp sits behind huge white sand dunes; beyond is a deserted beach. From the camp you can travel along the delta waterways in small boats to see the fantastic birdlife.





# ON SAFARI

Perhaps the ultimate Kenyan safari experience is your own travelling tented camp, set up wherever the fancy takes you. In true turn-of-the-century style, Abercrombie & Kent can arrange for staff and equipment to travel with you to remote bush locations. All luxuries are included, from white-gloved silver service at table to private showers and refrigerators.

Kenya is ideal for combined safari/beach holidays. Soak up the sun at Mombasa's Nyali Beach hotel: glorious talcum sand and coral reef populated by tropical fish. For evening dining, don't miss the Tamarind restaurant, with its spectacular views over the harbour, and famous crab and seafood dishes. For memorable marriages, the African Safari Club in London (tel: 071-486 4595) offers "Weddings in Mombasa"—a full package that can supply everything from witnesses to the wedding cake, followed by a honeymoon on safari.

The old Arab slaving port of Lamu, a small coastal island some 150 miles north of Mombasa, is not the idyllic paradise so often described in the brochures. Much of the main town burnt down a few years ago and has not been rebuilt. The dhows are picturesque but the town is a mass of dirty, claustrophobic alleyways and run-down hotels. It appeals to the many 70s-style hippies who lounge on the beaches, but the sophisticated traveller should look elsewhere.

For adventure and excitement, the brave and fit might try gorilla spotting from Kigali in Rwanda. You trek through the bush accompanied by park guards whose guns might prove less than a match for these fast, powerful beasts in an emergency. Gorillas are elusive, and sightings are not guaranteed. You may end up walking for hours over rough terrain in tremendous heat. It is a wonderful experience if you do stumble on a gorilla family and survive unscathed—but one that you might not wish to repeat. Accommodation is very basic.

Tanzania is hard to beat for seeing a host of different species of animals and birds. The private camp on the Rufiji River, run by Richard Bonham, is exceptionally beautiful. Very remote, for true nature-lovers. Go up-river by flat-bottom boat one day and drift back down the next, with the engines switched off. Sleep in fly tents. Excellent food: freshly-baked bread, eland curry, crispy-fried coconuts.

Botswana, one of the world's most sparsely-populated countries, has turned over no less than 17 per cent of its land to national parks and game reserves. Good for getting away from it all in small camps (maximum 14 people) and on riverboat safaris. Profusion of plant, animal, bird and river life. At Pom Pom float by punt among huge water-lilies; part the reeds to see impala and hippos. Elephants abound at Machaba; they sometimes stroll through the camp to their mid-morning bath. Chobe Game Lodge is one of Africa's best. Civilised, attractive and lots of animals.



TONY STONE

*Tanzania is hard to beat for its enormous range of wildlife.*

The Victoria Falls (at Livingstone, Zimbabwe) are easily accessible from Botswana—best seen from the air. Less spectacular than either Niagara or Iguacu, but with memorable rainbows and tropical plants. Victoria Falls Hotel has seen better days. Still some vestiges of faded colonial glory, but chaotic service, noisy air-conditioning, huge tour groups and disgusting food. The white-water rafting trip from below the Falls, shooting over 14 rapids through steep volcanic gorges, offers concentrated excitement.

For the fit and adventurous, canoe safaris on the Zambezi are a highlight of Zimbabwe. Float past countless crocodiles and hippos (with experienced guides to hand!). Limited big game but fabulous birdlife (pack binoculars and zoom lenses). Start in the narrow gorges below the Kariba Dam and paddle down to Mana Pools—ibis, fish eagles and game galore. Camp beneath the stars at night; wake to an unforgettable dawn. Best between June and August.

Top marks for game-viewing go to the Luangwa Valley in Zambia—probably Africa's largest concentration of game and birdlife. Chinzombo Safari Camp is highly praised. Game drives by night to spot leopards and other exciting species. Stay in a thatched cottage. Swimming pool. Excellent food.

Recommended tour operators: Abercrombie & Kent Travel, Sloane Square House, Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NS. Tel: 071-730 9600. Ker & Downey, 14 Old Bond St, London W1X 3DB. Tel: 071-629 2044. Brightest Africa for luxury, tented safaris. PO Box 5671, Nairobi.

Bartle Bull's exciting book, *Safari*, is recommended reading for anyone planning or returning from an African safari. Details 200 years of derring-do in the bush, enlivened with tales of characters such as Livingstone and Churchill. Viking/Penguin, £20.





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A SELECTIVE GUIDE TO SOME OF THE MORE INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING EVENTS ARRANGED FOR THE COMING MONTHS

# BEST OF AUTUMN

## THEATRE

Where applicable, a special telephone number is given for credit card bookings. The address & telephone number of each theatre are given on the first occasion it appears.

**After the Fall.** London première of Arthur Miller's 1963 confessional-drama. With James Laurenson & Josette Simon; directed by Michael Blakemore. *Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252).*

**Barbarians.** Gorky's rambling and unfocused exposé of a 19th-century village community whose way of life is disturbed by the arrival of railway builders. Unwieldy cast shout at one another, misbehave, and pop up over the garden fence. Until Oct 30. *Barbican Theatre, EC2 (071-638 8891).*

**Burn This.** An electrifying performance from John Malkovich turns Lanford Wilson's otherwise average romance of New York loft-life into an unforgettable evening. Juliet Stevenson is the woman he pursues with burning intent. Until Sept 29. *Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (071-437 3686).*

**The Crucible.** Arthur Miller's disturbing exploration of fanatical persecution during the 1692 witch-hunts in Salem, Massachusetts, stars Julia Ford, Michael Bryant & Zoë Wanamaker. *Olivier, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252).*

**Dancing at Lughnasa.** British première of a new drama by Brian Friel exploring the continuing lure of paganism in Irish village life in the 30s. Patrick Mason directs. Opens Oct 15. *Lyttelton, National Theatre.*

**A Dream of People.** Janet Suzman directs Michael Hastings's fiercely political comedy about a shy middle-class civil servant who one day dives across a committee table & wrestles the PM to the floor. Until Oct 30. *The Pit, Barbican, EC2 (071-638 8891).*

**Earwig.** Should a famous novelist sell out & write TV soaps? Paula Milne's comedy is an exploration of the world of television, & of the compromises people have to make to work in it. Until Nov 3. *The Pit, Barbican.*

**Hamlet.** In the years before Rumania's December Revolution, the Bulandra Theatre Company's *Hamlet*, with Ion Caramitru in the title role, drew Bucharest audiences to an allegory of a decaying régime. This is Caramitru's first London stage appearance. Sept 20-26. *Lyttelton, National Theatre.*

**Hidden Laughter.** Simon Gray's new play, which he also directs, traces the fortunes of a literary agent's family over 13 years of retreats to their country cottage. With Felicity Kendal & Peter Barkworth. *Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9988).*

**Into the Woods.** Award-winning musical based on a Grimm fairytale, by Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine. Julia McKenzie as the Witch, Imelda Staunton as the Baker's Wife, Jacqueline Dankworth as Cinderella. Opens Sept 25. *Phoenix, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (071-836 2294).*

**Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell.** James Bolam as the celebrated *Spectator* columnist in Keith Waterhouse's affectionate account of Bernard's life & drinking times, directed by Ned Sherrin. Until Oct 27. *Apollo, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (071-437 2663).*

**Kean.** Jean-Paul Sartre's satire of patronage & power (written in 1953) about the life of legendary 19th-century actor Edmund Kean, played by Derek Jacobi. *Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, SE1 (071-928 7616).*

**Man of the Moment.** Alan Ayckbourn's amusing play concerns attempts by a television presenter to inject life into a meeting between an ex-bank robber (Gareth Hunt), now living in Spanish luxury, & the determinedly uncritical bank clerk (Nigel Planer) who tackled him 17 years earlier. *Globe, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (071-437 3667).*

**Miss Saigon.** Intelligent musical by Alain Boublil & Claude-Michel Schönberg about an affair between a Vietnamese girl & an American soldier at the time of the fall of Saigon in 1975. *Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Catherine St, WC2 (071-836 8108).*



*Kean: Eleanor David and Derek Jacobi in a satire by Jean-Paul Sartre.*

**Moscow Gold.** Politically astute drama from Howard Brenton & Tariq Ali charting the rise to power of Mikhail Gorbachev in the face of an ossified bureaucracy. David Calderas Gorbachev, Olive Merrison as Lenin & Sara Kestelman as Raisa Gorbachev. Directed by Barry Kyle. Sept 26-Nov 1. *Barbican Theatre.*

**Once in a While the Odd Thing Happens.** Based on the life of Benjamin Britten. Paul Godfrey's début play for the National explores the conflict between the composer's association with W. H. Auden & his partnership with Peter Pears, in the period leading up to the première of his opera *Peter Grimes*. Opens Sept 18. *Cottesloe, National Theatre.*

**Pericles With Rob Edwards as Pericles & Suzan Sylvester as Marina; directed by David Thacker. Until Nov 1. The Pit, Barbican.**

**Piano.** New Chekhov-influenced work from political dramatist Trevor Griffiths, set in the Russia of 1900. *Cottesloe, National Theatre.*

**Private Lives.** Perhaps Noël Coward's best-loved play, marking the return to the stage for Joan Collins, after an absence of 10 years, to play Amanda. Keith Baxter co-stars as Elyot. Opens Sept 19. *Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404).*

**Racing Demon.** Topical, political play by David Hare, about four south-London clergymen struggling to make sense of their mission in the inner city. Taut direction by Richard Eyre brings to life the fundamentalism/humanism debate, while Michael Bryant, David Bamber & Stella Gonet turn in superb performances. A deserving winner of three Olivier Awards. *Olivier, National Theatre.*

**The Rehearsal.** Jean Anouilh's dark comedy of sexual intrigue, set in a French château in 1950. Costumes (18th-century & 1950s) by Jasper Conran. Directed by Ian McDiarmid. Sept 18-Oct 27. *Almeida Theatre, Almeida St, W1 (071-359 4404).*

**The Rocky Horror Show.** Revival of the camp 70s rock musical, which

goes back to Richard O'Brien's original script in an effort to "shed the cult paraphernalia". With Adrian Edmondson, Gina Bellman & Tim McInnerny & a good deal of raucous audience participation. *Piccadilly, Denman St, W1 (071-867 1118).*

**The School for Scandal.** John Neville & Diana Hardcastle as the sparring Teazles convey the affection which lies beneath their prickles in Peter Wood's imaginatively-staged production of Sheridan's comedy. *Olivier, National Theatre.*

**Shirley Valentine.** Elizabeth Estensen as the housewife who escapes her domestic shackles, in Willy Russell's comedy. *Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122).*

**Singer.** Peter Flannery's modern Jacobean tragi-drama, a blackly comic view of post-war British society. With Antony Sher in the title role. Until Nov 3. *Barbican Theatre.*

**Three Sisters.** Sorcha, Sinéad & Niamh Cusack offer their acclaimed Chekhov performances in a version by Frank McGuinness. Until Sept 29. *Royal Court.*

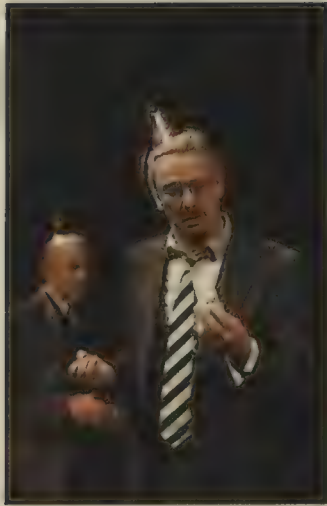
## RECOMMENDED LONG-RUNNERS

**Aspects of Love, Prince of Wales (071-839 5972); Blood Brothers, Albery (071-867 1115, cc 071-867 1111); Cats, New London (071-405 0072); Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Ambassador's (071-836 6111); Me & My Girl, Aldelphi (071-836 7611); Les Misérables, Palace (071-434 0909); The Mousetrap, St Martin's (071-836 1443); The Phantom of the Opera, Her Majesty's (071-839 2244); Starlight Express, Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665).**

## OUT OF TOWN

**RSC Season at Stratford.** At the Royal Shakespeare Theatre: *Much Ado About Nothing*, with Susan Fleetwood as Beatrice & Roger Allam as Benedick. *The Comedy Of Errors*, with Desmond Barrit as Antipholus & Estelle Kohler as Adriana. *King Lear*, with John Wood as Lear. *Love's Labour's Lost*, with Simon Russell Beale as the





Peter McEnery heads the cast of *A Dream of People* at the RSC. Lawrence Kasdan's *I Love You to Death*. Isabella Rossellini in *Wild at Heart*.

King of Navarre. At the Swan Theatre: *The Last Days of Don Juan*, in a new version by Nick Dear, with Linus Roache in the title role. *Troilus & Cressida*, with Ralph Fiennes & Amanda Root as the lovers. *Edward II*, with Simon Russell Beale as the King. *Two Shakespearian Actors*, Richard Nelson's play about the rivalry between two 19th-century actors, with Anton Lesser & John Wood. *Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick* CV37 6BB (0789 295623).

## CINEMA

The following are some of the most interesting films showing in & around London in the coming months.

**Back to the Future III** (PG). Third & last in the Robert Zemeckis time-travel series, once more with Christopher Lloyd & teen idol Michael J. Fox. The jokes are back in form, but the over-familiar plot fails to interest.

**Bad Influence** (18). A bored businessman gets seduced into a life of danger. Rob Lowe & James Spader star. Opens Oct 5.

**The Big Man** (18). Disappointing David Leland adaptation of William McIlvaney's acclaimed book. Examiner Liam Neeson is recruited by Glasgow gangster Ian Bannen for a gruesome bare-knuckle battle with a rival firm's man. A brooding Neeson bristles with unassailable integrity: the rest of the film falls around him in a bloody mess.

**The Boost** (18). A manic performance from James Woods, as a failed businessman who turns to cocaine for "a boost", holds together Harold Becker's disturbing film about the Los Angeles power-élite. Sean Young is excellent as his devoted wife. A grim but watchable portrait of a society made up of only winners & losers.

**Cadillac Man** (15) Robin Williams as a wisecracking car-salesman held hostage by an angry husband. Opens Oct 5.

**Crimes & Misdemeanors** (15). The most satisfying Woody Allen film

for years, strongly driven by a plot which sees upper-class optometrist Martin Landau descend from marital misdemeanour into sordid crime-by-proxy. The fine cast (Mia Farrow, Alan Alda, Claire Bloom, Anjelica Huston) help dissect the joys of extended family life in typically frothy Allen fashion, while Landau delves into darker areas of responsibility and guilt. Brilliantly engaging.

**Cry Baby** (12). 1954 Baltimore is the setting for director John Waters's latest foray into teenage rebellion & small-town moral outrage. Bizarre cast includes rock singer Iggy Pop, porn star Traci Lords & kidnapped heiress Patty Hearst. Enjoyable tack.

**Days of Thunder** (15). The Daytona 500 stock-car race is the setting for this Robert Towne-scripted action movie, with Tom Cruise as an underdog driver out to win not only the race but also the heart of Nichole Kidman. Sound-track includes songs by Elton John, Cher & Guns 'n' Roses.

**Dick Tracy** (PG). Eminently watchable adaptation of the Chester Gould comic-strip, with Warren Beatty as the hard-boiled 'tec. A wafer-thin plot is more than made up for by strong support from Madonna & Charles Durning, a sound-track that includes new songs by Stephen Sondheim, & imaginative set-designs (in the primary colours of the strip). Dustin Hoffman & Al Pacino also appear.

**Die Hard II** (15). Much the same formula as *Die Hard*—spectacular designer violence, lovingly-filmed explosions & so on—this time set in an airport. Bruce Willis again plays detective John McClane, up against Latin American terrorists who have his wife held hostage in a plane.

**Gremlins II: The New Batch** (12). Little green monsters terrorise a Manhattan skyscraper in Joe Dante's comedy-horror sequel. Cameo from Christopher Lee as a mad professor.

**Hardware** (18). Explosive sci-fi adventure yarn (filmed on location in London), about a couple's escape from a prototype killing-robot.

Feature début from writer/director Richard Stanley. Opens Oct 5.

**I Love You to Death** (15). William Hurt, Kevin Kline, River Phoenix & Tracey Ullman head the cast in a sophisticated comedy directed by Lawrence Kasdan. Opens Sept 21.

**Long Time Companions** (15). As AIDS takes a grip on 1981 New York, a group of gay men have to come to terms with the loss of many long-time companions. With Campbell Scott, Mark Lamos & Dermot Mulroney. Opens Sept 21.

**Memphis Belle** (12). Second World War drama, produced by David Puttnam, centring on an American B-17 bomber squadron stationed in Britain. Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz & Billy Zane are among the crew. Directed by Michael Caton-Jones.

**Music Box** (15). Jessica Lange is a talented criminal lawyer who finds herself representing her own father when he is accused of horrible war crimes committed nearly 50 years earlier. Director Constantin Costa-Gavras continues his obsession with topically political films.

**Oedipus Rex** (X). Pasolini's 1967 adaptation of Sophocles's *Oedipus Rex* & *Oedipus at Colonus*, presented in both historical & contemporary settings, looks dated today. With Franco Citti as the king. Opens Sept 21.

**Out Cold** (15). Black comedy with Randy Quaid as an exceedingly inept private detective investigating the shady dealings between shy butcher John Lithgow & his philandering business partner Bruce McGill.

**Paper Mask** (15). Low-key British satire, with a background of the crisis facing the NHS. Cast includes Amanda Donohoe & Paul McGann.

**The Plot Against Harry** (PG). Michael Roemer's deadpan 1969 comedy (shelved until now), set in Jewish New York, was a big hit at the New York & Toronto Film Festivals last year. Opens Oct 5.

**Presumed Innocent**. Intelligent courtroom drama from Alan Pakula based on the bestselling novel by

Scott Turow. Top lawyer Harrison Ford is accused of the murder of seductress Greta Scacchi, but the evidence is contradictory (as in all Pakula's films, everybody has something to hide). Slow start but is worth sticking with for the twist ending. Opens Oct 12.

**Rocco & his Brothers** (X). Luchino Visconti's 1960 classic about a peasant family who move to Milan in search of a better life. Oct 26-Nov 8. *National Film Theatre, South Bank, SE1* (071-928 3232).

**Stella** (15). Bette Midler lubricates the tear ducts in this re-make of the classic King Vidor/Barbara Stanwyck weepie in which motherly love vanquishes self-interest. Splendidly sudsy central performance, but for fans of the genre only.

**Total Recall** (18). Sci-fi blockbuster, adapted from a short story by Philip K. Dick, with Arnold Schwarzenegger as a future Everyman trying to discover his true identity by taking a trip to Mars. Wildly over-the-top in terms of violence & excessive special effects, as one might expect from director Paul Verhoeven, but has the appeal of a good roller-coaster ride.

**Where the Heart is** (15). Intended as a socially-conscious comedy, this story of a New York demolition contractor who throws his three spoilt children out of the house to teach them to stand on their own feet, falls into sentimentality. A rather disappointing return for director John Boorman.

**White Hunter, Black Heart** (PG). Clint Eastwood stars in & directs this *Moby Dick*-style story of a film director on location in Africa who is determined to shoot an elephant before he shoots his movie. Widely believed to be based on an incident involving the late John Huston.

**Wild at Heart** (18). Another gloriously weird David Lynch outing (winner of the Cannes Palme d'Or) exploring the themes of obsession, sex & violence, in the company of a superb cast—Isabella Rossellini, Nicolas Cage, Laura Dern, Harry Dean Stanton & Crispin Glover.



## HANN OVERLAND

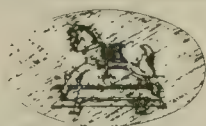


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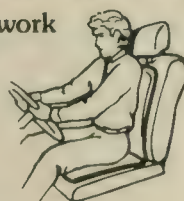


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Design for Turnage's *Greek* at the Coliseum. African dance at Sadler's Wells.

## OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

*London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2.*  
(071-836 3161, cc 071-240 5258).

**Wozzeck.** Berg's powerful & moving work, staged by David Pountney & conducted by Mark Elder. Donald Maxwell sings the title role, Kristine Ciesinski is Marie. Sept 13, 17, 20, 22, 25, 29, Oct 2, 4, 10, 12, 17, 19, 25.

**Tosca.** Strongly sung with Jane Eaglen/Janice Cairns as Tosca, David Rendall/Edmund Barham as Cavaradossi. Sept 14, 18, 21, 26, 28.

**The Magic Flute.** Tamino is shared by Neill Archer & Thomas Randle, Papageno by Andrew Shore & Nicholas Folwell in Nicholas Hytner's imaginative production. Sept 15 (m&e), 19, Oct 3, 6 (m&e), 11, 13 (m&e), 16, 18, 24, 27, 31.

**Greek.** Mark-Anthony Turnage's opera, based on Steven Berkoff's play, is produced by Jonathan Moore & conducted by Richard Bernas. Cast includes Quentin Hayes as the hero, Eddy. Sept 27, Oct 1, 5.

**Dr Faust.** Alan Opie sings Faust, Graham Clark is Mephistopheles, in David Pountney's memorable production. Oct 20, 23, 26, 30.

OPERA LONDON

*Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Ave, EC1* (071-278 8916).

**A Midsummer Night's Dream.** Richard Hickox conducts a new production by David Meyer, with James Bowman as Oberon, Lillian Watson as Tytania, Donald Maxwell as Bottom. Oct 24, 27, 29, 31, Nov 1, 3.

ROYAL OPERA

*Covent Garden, WC2* (071-240 1066).

**Turandot.** Replaces *Don Quixotte*. Colin Davis conducts various combinations of singers. Sept 15, 18, 21, 24, 29, Oct 3, 6, 11.

**Siegfried.** Götz Friedrich's underground *Ring* continues, with James Morris as the Wanderer, René Kollo as Siegfried, Gwyneth Jones as Brünnhilde. Oct 4, 9, 12, 16, 20.

**Attila.** Powerful early Verdi, conducted by Edward Downes, directed

by Elijah Moshinsky. Cast includes Ruggero Raimondi, Mara Zampieri, Renato Bruson & Dennis O'Neill. Oct 13, 15, 18, 22, 24, 27, 30.

OUT OF TOWN

GLYNDEBOURNE TOURING OPERA

*Glyndebourne, E Sussex* (0273 541111).

**Die Zauberflöte.** This year's visually stimulating production by Peter Sellars, with Amanda Roocroft as Pamina & Gerald Finley as Papageno. Oct 9, 11, 15, 17.

**Fidelio.** American soprano Carol Yahr makes her UK début as Leonore, Mark Baker sings Florestan. Oct 10, 12, 16, 20.

**New Year.** Tippett at his most mystifying & mischievous, expounds his vision of hope for the future with exuberance. Oct 13, 18, 19.

*Theatre Royal, Glasgow* (041-331 1234). Oct 23-27. *Apollo, Oxford* (0865 244544). Oct 30-Nov 3.

OPERA NORTH

*Grand Theatre, Leeds* (0532 459351).

**Ariane & Bluebeard.** Dukas's only opera in a production by Patrick Mason. Sept 17, 20, 29, Oct 8.

**La traviata.** Eva Jenisova sings Violetta, with Bonaventura Bottone as Alfredo. Sept 28, Oct 1, 4, 6, 9, 13.

**The Threepenny Opera.** Alan Oke sings Macheath. Oct 3, 5, 10, 11, 12.

*Palace, Manchester* (061-236 9922). Oct 16-20. *Theatre Royal, Nottingham* (0602 482626). Oct 23-27. *New, Hull* (0482 226655). Oct 30-Nov 3.

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA

*New Theatre, Cardiff* (0222 394844).

**Carmen.** New production by André Engel, with Jean Stilwell as Carmen & Noel Velasco as Don José. Sept 17, 20, 29, Oct 5.

**The Marriage of Figaro.** Bryn Terfel sings Figaro in Giles Havergal's production. Sept 24, Oct 2, 4.

**From the House of the Dead.** One of the greatest productions of the 80s of Janáček's searing masterpiece, cast headed by Jeffrey Lawton. Oct 3, 6. *Mayflower, Southampton* (0703 229771). Oct 9-13. *Hippodrome, Bristol* (0272 299444). Oct 16-20. *Grand, Swansea* (0792 475715). Oct 23-27.





Indian classicism within contemporary Dance Umbrella. Anne-Sophie Mutter, virtuoso, at the Barbican. Bekova Sisters Trio at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

## DANCE

**Adzido.** Pan-African dance ensemble present *Under African Skies*, an exploration of the continent's mythology, with dances linked by poetry & oral history. Oct 2-6. *Sadler's Wells*, Rosebery Ave, EC1 (071-278 8916).

**Birmingham Royal Ballet.** The opening season begins with a triple bill mixing the old & new: *Theme & Variations*, Balanchine's spectacular ballet with music by Tchaikovsky; new work by David Bintley; *Jazz Calendar*, Ashton's 1968 comedy with music by Richard Rodney Bennett & sets by Derek Jarman. Oct 30, 31. *Hippodrome*, Birmingham (021-622 7486).

**Dance Umbrella 90.** Annual festival at various venues in London. Special guests include the Stephen Petronio Company from America, premiering *Middlesex Gorge*; Groupe Emile Dubois, from France; Yolande Snaith, launching *Dance Quorum*; & Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company with *Correspondences*, based on the classical Bharatha Natyam. Oct 7-Nov 10. Information: 081-741 4040.

**International Autumn Dance Series:** Appearances by the Moscow Festival Ballet, Margaret Jenkins Dancers from San Francisco. Miami City Ballet (a European debut), & Joel Hall Dancers from Chicago. *Deragate*, 19-21 Guildhall Rd, Northampton, NN1 1DP (0604 24811).

**Les Ballets Africains.** The African Ballet of the Republic of Guinea, with an exhilarating programme inspired by tribal traditions & performed against a colourful & spectacular set. Sept 18-29. *Sadler's Wells*.

**Phoenix Dance Company.** One of this country's most original young companies, with works by Simon Rice, Michael Clark, Darshan Singh Bhuller & Philip Taylor. Oct 9-13. *Sadler's Wells*.

**Royal Ballet.** *The Prince of the Pagodas*, Britten's only ballet score, choreographed by Kenneth MacMillan. Oct 19, 23, 31. Triple bill: *The Planets*, David Bintley's newest work for the

company, with music by Holst; *Enclosure*, 21-year-old William Tuckett's first ballet for the company, to music by Alban Berg; *Elite Syncopations*, choreography by MacMillan, ragtime music by Joplin. Oct 25, 26, 29. Nov. 1. *Royal Opera House*, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911).

## MUSIC

ALBERT HALL

*Kensington Gore*, SW7 (071-823 9998).

Henry Wood Promenade Concerts:

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Bach Choir, Brighton Festival Chorus, Westminster Cathedral Choir.** Kurt Masur conducts Britten's War Requiem. Sept 14, 7.30pm. **BBCSO, Chorus & Singers.** Mark Elder conducts the last night, which includes Haydn, Tippett, Rossini, Delibes, Delius & the traditional favourites. Sept 15, 7.30pm.

BARBICAN HALL

EC2 (071-638 8891).

**London Symphony Orchestra.** James Galway, flute, is the soloist in three concerts, under Michael Tilson Thomas. Wuorinen, Mozart, Janáček, Sept 16; Beethoven, McCabe, Debussy, Janáček, Sept 20; Mozart, Bruckner, Sept 30; 7.30pm.

**Monteverdi Choir & Orchestra.** John Eliot Gardiner conducts Brahms's Schicksalslied & Ein Deutsches Requiem. Oct 4, 7.45pm.

**Discovery Concert.** Michael Tilson Thomas, with Paul Crossley, explores the life & works of Janáček & conducts the LSO in a performance of Janáček's Sinfonietta. Oct 5, 7.45pm.

**Bolshoi Orchestra.** Alexander Lazarev conducts Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, Prokofiev. Oct 8, 7.45pm.

**Beethoven Piano Concertos.** Mitsuko Uchida, piano, is the soloist with the English Chamber Orchestra, under Jeffrey Tate, in a cycle of the Beethoven concertos. Oct 11, 24, Nov 10, 21, Dec 5, 7.45pm.

**Anne-Sophie Mutter & Friends.** Five concerts in chamber groups & with the LSO. Friends are Bruno

Giuranna, viola, Phillip Moll, piano, Frans Helmerson, cello, Andrei Gavrilov, piano, & composer Witold Lutoslawski. Includes Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, Beethoven's Triple Concerto, Brahms's Double Concerto & Violin Concertos by Tchaikovsky & Stravinsky. Oct 17, 19, 20, 23, 7.45pm. Oct 21, 7.30pm. **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.** Simon Rattle conducts Haydn, Mozart, Goldschmidt, Walton. Oct 18, 7.15pm.

FESTIVAL HALL

*South Bank Centre*, SE1 (071-928 8800).

**Brave New Worlds 1945-68.** An exploration of the arts between the Allied victory & the Paris barricades. Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in two concerts: Varèse & Beethoven. Sept 16; Zimmermann, Bartók, Stravinsky, Haydn, Sept 17; 7.30pm.

**Philharmonia.** Giuseppe Sinopoli conducts Liszt's Piano Concerto No 1, with Jorge Bolet, & Mahler's Symphony No 5. Sept 23, 7.30pm.

**City of London Sinfonia, Westminster Singers.** Richard Hickox conducts Fauré's Requiem, Debussy & Poulenc. Sept 25, 7.30pm.

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Brighton Festival Chorus.** Mark Elder conducts Verdi's Requiem. Sept 26, 7.30pm.

**London Philharmonic.** Klaus Tennstedt conducts Weber, Beethoven, Prokofiev, Sept 27; Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Sept 30; 7.30pm.

**Philharmonia.** Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts Rachmaninov, Xenakis, Strauss, Oct 3; Berio, Liszt/Holliger, Weill. Oct 9; Beethoven, Sibelius, Oct 11; 7.30pm.

**International Piano Series:** Alfred Brendel plays Haydn, Schumann, Beethoven. Oct 4; Maurizio Pollini plays Beethoven, Webern, Boulez. Oct 24; 7.30pm.

**BBC Symphony Orchestra 60th anniversary season.** Andrew Davis conducts Webern, Berg, Boulez, Schoenberg, Oct 8; Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Rachmaninov. Oct 22;

Gerhard, Bartók, Lutoslawski, Messiaen, Oct 29; 7.30pm.

**London Philharmonic.** Franz Welser-Möst conducts the first British performance of Balduin Sulzer's Symphony No 2, Mendelssohn & Stravinsky. Oct 13, 7.30pm.

**National Orchestra of Canada** play Prokofiev, Hétu & Mozart, with Pinchas Zukerman as conductor & violin soloist. Oct 14, 7.30pm.

**Royal Philharmonic Society.** Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the first British performance of John Woolrich's *Ghost in the Machine*, Britten, Vaughan Williams. Oct 17, 7.30pm.

**London Mozart Players.** Jane Glover conducts Mozart, Strauss, Schubert. Oct 21, 7.30pm.

**Enterprise Neptune gala.** Charles Groves conducts the English Sinfonia in a maritime extravaganza celebrating the silver jubilee of the National Trust's campaign to save the coastline. Oct 23, 7.30pm.

**Bach Choir, Philharmonia.** David Willcocks conducts Beethoven, & Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*. Oct 30, 7.30pm.

**Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.** Riccardo Muti conducts Beethoven's Symphony No 4 & Brahms's Symphony No 2. Oct 31, 7.30pm.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

*South Bank Centre*.

**25 years of Pierrot.** Soprano Jane Manning, with her group Jane's Minstrels, celebrates the 25th anniversary of her first performance of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*. World premieres of works by David Bedford & Brian Elias. Sept 13, 7.45pm.

**Bekova Sisters Trio.** Eleonora, piano, Elvira, violin, & Alfia, cello, play Brahms trios & a new work by Michael Finnissy. Sept 17, 7.45pm.

**London Classical Players.** Roger Norrington conducts Brahms & Mozart. Sept 25, 7.45pm.

**Sixteen Choir & Orchestra.** Purcell's *Fairy Queen*, conducted by Harry Christophers. Oct 1, 7.45pm.

**Stars of the USSR Opera.** Larissa





James Galway with the LSO, Barbican. *Rouen Cathedral: Monet in the 90s, series paintings, Royal Academy.* Ceri Richards's *Blue Interior*, Festival Hall.

Shevchenko, soprano, Gegam Grigorian, tenor, Igor Morozov, baritone, Ingrid Surgenor, piano. Arias, duets, trios from operas by Verdi, Puccini, Tchaikovsky, Bellini, Leoncavallo, Oct 2, 7.45pm.

**Dmitri Hvorostovsky**, baritone, **Mikhail Arcadieff**, piano. Two recitals of arias by Monteverdi, Pergolesi, Caccini, Stradella, Bellini, Donizetti, Oct 5, 7, 7.45pm.

**Christina Ortiz**, piano. Liszt, Scriabin, Brahms, Prokofiev, Villa-Lobos, Oct 7, 3pm.

**Tippett/Beethoven**. A cycle of piano sonatas & string quartets, played by Peter Donohoe, piano, & the Britten String Quartet, Oct 15, 23, 25, 31, Nov 7, 8, 11, 7.45pm.

**Robert & Clara**. Four lunchtime song recitals to celebrate Schumann's *annus mirabilis*, when he married Clara, Oct 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 1.10pm.

**Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment**. C.P.E. Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, under Frans Brüggen, Oct 19, 7.45pm.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL  
*King William Walk, SE10. Box office: Greenwich Entertainment Services, 151 Povey St, SE18 (081-3178687).*

**Les Arts Florissants**. William Christie conducts France's leading early-music ensemble in Charpentier's *Acton* & Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* (version for nine singers & seven instrumentalists), Oct 3, 7.30pm.

## FESTIVALS

### CANTERBURY FESTIVAL

The theme of relationships – past, present & future, human, social & artistic – is explored in 150 events. Music, drama, dance, opera, film & exhibitions. Some venues in nearby towns. Oct 6–20. Box office: 37 Palace St, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2DZ (0227 453600).

### GARDIFF FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Tchaikovsky features in concerts by the Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra, the RPO & the pianist Michael Ponti. Soviet soloists perform arias, duets & trios from the Russian & Italian reper-

tory. Welsh National Opera present three productions. Sept 15–Oct 6. Box office: St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 2SH (0222 371236).

### NORFOLK & NORWICH FESTIVAL

Celebrates the arts of the 20th century, including jazz, blues, salsa electro-acoustic & contemporary music. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie, trumpeter Hakan Hardenberger, violinist Krzysztof Smetana, pianist Yefim Bronfman are among virtuosi performers. Norwich Players present *The Threepenny Opera*, Oct 4–14. Box office: St Andrew's Hall, Norwich NR3 1AU (0603 764764).

### SWANSEA FESTIVAL

Overseas visitors include the Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra & the National Orchestra of Canada. Music Theatre Wales present Stephen Oliver's version of Peri's *Euridice*, composed in 1660. English Shakespeare Company bring *Coriolanus* & *The Winter's Tale*. Also Welsh National Opera. Sept 24–Nov 3. Box office: Grand Theatre, Swansea SA1 3QJ (0792 475715).

### WINDSOR FESTIVAL

Concerts in St George's Chapel & the Waterloo Chamber, Windsor Castle, by the Bach Choir & English Chamber Orchestra. Alfred Brendel & the choir of King's College, Cambridge at Eton College. Sept 21–Oct 7. Box office: Theatre Royal, Windsor SL4 1PS (0733 851696).

## EXHIBITIONS

### AGNEW'S

43 Old Bond St, W1 (071-629 6176).

**Modern British Drawings & Graphics**, including works by Leon Kossoff & Augustus John at prices from £125 to £8,500. Sept 26–Oct 26.

**The Broad Horizon**. Paintings of people & places connected with the National Trust. Oct 3–Nov 2.

Mon–Fri 11am–5.30pm.

### AMADEUS

21 High St, W18 (071-722 5883).

**Autumn Exhibition**. High Victorian art by English, German, Italian, French & Scandinavian ex-

ponents. Oct 16–Nov 20. Mon–Sat 10.30am–5.30pm.

### BARBICAN ART GALLERY

Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 4141).

**Chagall to Kitaj: Jewish experience in the art of the 20th century**.

Part of the Barbican's season Israel: State of the Art. Oct 10–Jan 6, 1991. Mon–Sat 10am–6.45pm, Tues until 5.45pm, Thurs until 7.45pm, Sun noon–5.45pm. £4, concessions £2.

### BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD

Cambridge Heath Rd, E2 (071-980 3204).

**The World of William**. Exhibition marking the centenary of the birth of Richmal Crompton, creator of the celebrated schoolboy. Until Nov 4. Sat–Thurs 10am–6pm, Sun 2.30–6pm.

### BRITISH MUSEUM

Great Russell St, WC1 (071-636 1555).

**Porcelain for Palaces: the Fashion for Japan in Europe 1650–1750**. Major exhibition showing the influences of 17th- & 18th-century Imari & Kakiemon porcelains on European potters. Until Nov 4.

**Avant-Garde British Printmaking 1914–60**. From Bomberg's Vorticism to works by Paolozzi, Butler & Turnbull. Sept 14–Jan 6, 1991.

**Archaeology & the Bible**. Major exhibition illustrating the cultural & political history of the Holy Land. Oct 19–Mar 24, 1991. £2.

Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 2.30pm–6pm.

### COURTAULD INSTITUTE GALLERIES

Somerset House, Strand, WC2 (071-873 2526).

**Courtauld Collection**. Newly-restored 18th-century rooms house this great collection. Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 2–6pm. £2, concessions £1.

### CUMBERLAND HOTEL

Marble Arch, W1 (information 071-493 6420).

**20th-century British Art Fair**. From 1900 to the present day. Sept 26–30. Wed–Fri 11am–8pm, Sat, Sun 11am–7pm. £6 includes catalogue.

### FESTIVAL HALL

South Bank Centre, SE1 (071-928 3002).

**Festival of 51**. Painting & sculpture from the Arts Council collection commissioned for the Festival of Britain. Until Oct 21. Daily 10am–10pm.

### HAYWARD GALLERY

South Bank Centre, SE1 (071-928 3144).

**Eduardo Chillida**. Abstract steel sculptures by this contemporary Spanish artist. Until Nov 4.

**The Brush Sings & the Ink Dances**. Chinese paintings from the British Museum. Until Nov 4. Daily 10am–6pm, Tues, Wed until 8pm. £4, concessions & everybody Mon £2.

### MARLBOROUGH GALLERY

6 Albemarle St, W1 (071-629 5161).

**Frank Auerbach: recent work**. Paintings, drawings & acrylics. Sept 21–Oct 20. Mon–Fri 10am–5.30pm, Sat 10am–12.30pm.

### ROY MILES GALLERY

29 Bruton St, W1 (071-495 4747).

**Sergei Chepik**. First London exhibition for one of the Soviet Union's most successful realist artists. Oct 10–30. Mon–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat 10am–1pm.

### MUSEUM OF LONDON

London Wall, EC2 (071-600 3699).

**Images of the London Blitz**. Everyday life in wartime London & the work of women at war, in the newly-renovated Second World War gallery. Until May 6, 1991.

**The Tale of London Past: Beatrix Potter's archaeological paintings**. Watercolour studies painted in 1894–95 before Miss Potter embarked on writing children's books. Oct 23–Jan 27, 1991.

Tues–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 2–6pm.

### NATIONAL GALLERY

Trafalgar Sq, WC2 (071-839 3321).

**The Artist's Eye: Victor Pasmore**. Works from the gallery's collection by the abstract painter Pasmore include those of Turner, Cézanne & Whistler. Until Oct 7. Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 2–6pm.

### NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

St Martin's Pl, WC2 (071-306 0055).

**The Raj: India & the British 1600–1947**. The gallery's most spectacular exhibition to date examines the





Children's event at the Horse of the Year Show. Rugby: Barbarians centenary match at Twickenham. Bonham's ceramics sale: *Dialos Player* dish, Picasso.

relationship between British & Indian society over 350 years through paintings, prints & photographs. Oct 19-Mar 17. £3.50, concessions £2.50. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat until 6pm, Sun 2-6pm.

#### THE QUEEN'S GALLERY

*Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1 (071-930 4832).*

**A Royal Miscellany.** Treasures from the Royal Library at Windsor. Until Jan 13, 1991. Tues-Sat 10.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. £1.70, concessions £1.

#### ROYAL ACADEMY

*Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438).*

**Monet in the 90s.** Series paintings by this master Impressionist, including those of the Japanese bridge at Giverny & Rouen cathedral. Advance booking advised: 071-439 7438. Until Dec 9. £5 & £3.40. Daily 10am-6pm.

#### ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM

*Grahame Park Way, Hendon, NW9 (081-205 9191).*

**The Battle of Britain Experience.** 50th anniversary exhibition. Until Oct 31. Daily 10am-6pm. £3.60, concessions £1.80.

#### SMITH'S GALLERIES

*25 Neal St, WC2 (071-821 5323).*

**Contemporary Art Society Market.** Some 1,000 paintings, drawings & sculptures, sold on a cash-&-carry basis, priced from £100 to £1,500. Oct 30-Nov 3. Tues-Fri 11am-7pm, Sat 11am-4pm.

#### SPINK & SON

*5,6,7 King St, SW1 (071-930 7888).*

**Lucien Pissarro, watercolours.** More than 30 works on sale from £5,000 to £15,000. Oct 3-26. Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

#### TATE GALLERY

*Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313).*

**William Coldstream, 1908-87.** Sixty paintings by one of the most vigorous & influential British artists of the century. Oct 17-Jan 6, 1991.

**Richard Long.** Work by the 1989 Turner Prize winner. Oct 3-Nov 18. Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm.

#### VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

*Cromwell Rd, SW7 (071-938 8349).*

**Flowered Silks.** English & French 18th-century fabrics. Until Oct 28.

**Recording Britain.** Market towns & agricultural landscapes of pre-war England & Wales in watercolours & drawings. Until Nov 18.

**Pierre Cardin: Past, Present & Future.** The French designer's dress collections from the 1950s until the 90s. Oct 10-Jan 6, 1991.

Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. Suggested voluntary donation, £2, concessions 50p.

#### WARTSKI

*14 Grafton St, W1 (071-493 1141).*

**18th-century Gold Boxes of Europe.** Items on loan from the collections of the Queen, the Queen Mother, the King of Sweden, the V&A, Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza & others. Oct 2-17. Daily 11am-5pm.

## SPORT

#### ATHLETICS

**McVitie Challenge invitation meeting.** Sept 16. *Sheffield, S Yorks.*

#### CRICKET

**Refuge Assurance Cup final.** Sept 16. *Edgbaston, Birmingham.*

**Britannic Assurance Championship:** Surrey v Middx, Sept 12-15; v Essex, Sept 18-21. *Foster's Oval, SE11.*

#### EQUESTRIANISM

**Luxor National Carriage Driving Championships.** Sept 14-16. *Windsor, Berks.*

**Taylor Woodrow National Dressage Championships.** Sept 22, 23. *Goodwood, W Sussex.*

**Horse of the Year Show.** Oct 1-6. *Wembley Arena, Middx.*

#### GOLF

**Ladies' European Open.** Sept 13-16. *Kingswood, nr Reigate, Surrey.*

**Suntory World Matchplay Championship.** Sept 20-23. *Wentworth, Virginia Water, Surrey.*

**Epson Grand Prix.** Sept 27-30. *St Pierre GC, Chepstow, Gwent.*

**Dunhill Cup.** Oct 11-14. *St Andrews, Fife.*

#### GYMNASTICS

**Daily Mirror Rhythmic International (women).** Oct 13. *Wembley Conference Centre, Middx.*

#### HORSE RACING

**Holsten Pils St Leger festival meeting.** Sept 12-15 (St Leger, Sept 15). *Doncaster, S Yorks.*

**Ladbroke Ayr Gold Cup.** Sept 21. *Ayr, Strathclyde.*

**Festival of British Racing,** including Queen Elizabeth II Stakes. Sept 29. *Ascot, Berks.*

**Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.** Oct 7. *Longchamp, Paris, France.*

**Tote Cesarewitch.** Oct 20. *Newmarket, Suffolk.*

#### ICE SKATING

**Skate Electric International.** Oct 1-4. *Richmond, Surrey.*

#### POWERBOAT RACING

**Windermere record week.** Oct 15-19. *Lake Windermere, Cumbria.*

#### RUGBY UNION

**England v Barbarians centenary match.** Sept 29. *Twickenham, Middx.*

**Wales v Barbarians.** Oct 6. *Cardiff.*

#### TENNIS

**Midland Bank Championships (women).** Oct 23-28. *Brighton Conference Centre, E Sussex.*

## OTHER EVENTS

**Anglo-American Relations in the Second World War.** Concerts & film screenings evoking this period of recent history. Oct 6-28. *Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd, SE1 (071-416 5000).* £3, concessions £1.50; free Fri. **Brave New World 1945-68.** Events showing the response of artists & writers to the years between the Allied victory in Europe & the Paris events of May, 1968. Until Oct 28. *Various venues, South Bank Centre, SE1 (071-928 8800).*

**British International Motor Show.** More than 30 countries are represented at this grand biennial showcase. Public days Sept 22-30. Daily 9.30am-7pm, Sept 30 until 5.30pm. *NEC, Birmingham.* Sept 22, 23 £7, afterwards £5, concessions £3.

**Firework Display.** Extravaganza in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Sept 15, 8.15pm. *Between Blackfriars & Waterloo Bridges, WC2, EC4 & SE1.*

**Great Autumn Flower Show.** The best of the season's blooms. Sept 18, 19. Tues 11am-7pm, Wed 10am-5pm. *RHS Halls, Vincent Sq, SW1.* Thurs £2.50, Fri £1.50.

**Horseman's Sunday.** Annual church service & blessing for horses & their riders. Sept 23, noon. *St John's Church, Hyde Park Cres, W2.*

**Olympia Decorative & Antiques Fair.** Antiques dealers, interior designers & contemporary art dealers show their best wares. Oct 9-14. Tues 2-8pm, Wed-Fri 11am-8pm, Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 11am-4pm. *Olympia, W14.* Tues £10, Wed £5, then £3.

**Park Lane Antiques Fair.** Forty dealers present silver, glass, paintings, clocks & many other objects. Loan exhibition from the Museum of Automata in York. Oct 3-8. Wed-Fri 11am-8pm, Sat, Sun 11am-7pm, Mon 11am-6pm. *Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, W1.* £6 including catalogue.

**Poetry International.** Lectures, readings & workshops with contemporary poets, including Kit Wright, Derek Walcott & Joseph Brodsky. Sept 27-Oct 6. *Various venues, South Bank Centre.*

**Punch & Judy Fellowship Festival.** More than 30 booths offer traditional puppet shows. Oct 7, 10.30am-5.30pm. *Piazza, Covent Garden, WC2.*

**Sales:** Historic aircraft & aeronautical memorabilia including a Hurricane (estimated at £1-1.2 million) & a Spitfire (£650,000-850,000), Sept 15 at RAF Museum, Hendon, NW9, *Sotheby's, 34/35 New Bond St, W1 (071-493 8080);* Jewellery from a 300-year-old Spanish shipwreck, Oct 3, *Christie's, 8 King St, SW1 (071-839 9060);* Banknotes from the Amon Carter Collection, Oct 4, *Spink & Son, 5 King St, SW1 (071-930 7888);* Contemporary ceramics by Cocteau, Picasso & others, Oct 17, *Bonham's, Montpelier St, SW1 (071-584 9161).*





Left, *Althea Floridana*, *Gordonia Lasianthus* (Loblolly Bay), with a painted bunting perched on it, from *A Treasury of Flowers* by Frank J. Anderson (Bullfinch, £30). Right, the GWR locomotive "Monmouth Castle" on the Devon coast in the tunnel between Dawlish and Teignmouth, from *Terence Cuneo—Railway Painter of the Century* by Narisa Chakra (New Cavendish Books, £30).



## BOOK LIST

*A selected list of current titles which are, or deserve to be, on the bestseller list*

### HARDBACK NON-FICTION

#### **The Search for Justice**

by Arthur Bryant  
Collins, £16.95

History is neither dull nor bunk when written with the understanding and literary vigour of Arthur Bryant. In this, the third and final, volume of his *History of Britain and the British People*, which was substantially completed before his death, he covers the years from 1815 to 1945 with all the skill and style for which he was always rightly renowned.

#### **Dickens**

by Peter Ackroyd  
Sinclair-Stevenson, £19.95

Powerful portrayal of the life, character and best and worst of times of the great writer, in which Peter Ackroyd deploys his skills as biographer and novelist to recreate the man and the image he stamped on 19th-century England. If, as Dickens wrote, "trifles make the sum of life", then this is a feast of trifles.

#### **Clever Hearts**

by Hugh and Mirabel Cecil  
Gollancz, £18.95

More aspects of Bloomsbury—this time the biography of the unhappy marriage of Desmond and Molly MacCarthy, woven around the story of a successful man who, by his own account and certainly in the eyes of his merciless friends, should have achieved a great deal more.

#### **We British**

by Eric Jacobs & Robert Worcester  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15  
The authors' aim was to "travel through the nation's mind and bring back a report on what its people thought, felt and valued". They did it by means of the Mori opinion poll, and the result is a mass of statistics that confirm some of our preconceptions about ourselves and spring a number of surprises. It is fascinating stuff, but the accompanying cartoons suggest that perhaps it should not all be taken too seriously.

### HARDBACK FICTION

#### **The Last Word & Other Stories**

by Graham Greene  
Reinhardt Books, £11.95

A dozen stories are here collected from a variety of sources dating from 1923 to 1989, the most recent being "A Branch of the Service", published for the first time. Only four have appeared before in book form, and none was in the *Collected Short Stories*. Greene once suggested that his short stories were no more than a by-product of his novel-writing, but few can equal his mastery of both forms.

#### **Going Wrong**

by Ruth Rendell  
Hutchinson, £12.99

Gripping story of a self-made wealthy young man whose obsession with his childhood sweetheart and early partner in petty crime leads him into increasingly desperate attempts to retain her affection. Ruth Rendell is an expert at tightening the tension, up to and including the final twist.

#### **Lady's Maid**

by Margaret Forster  
Chatto, £13.95

The heroine of Margaret Forster's new novel is a young woman employed as Elizabeth Barrett's lady's maid, and the story follows Elizabeth out of the sickroom and away from her father's tyranny into European travel—and the gradual growth of Elizabeth into another kind of tyrant.

#### **The Gate of Angels**

by Penelope Fitzgerald  
Collins, £12.95

Set in a Cambridge college in 1912, the era when atomic research was just beginning and earnest Fellows did not allow women to intrude upon their studies. A junior Fellow finds his apparently well-ordered mind and life thrown into confusion following a bicycle accident with a pretty nurse, but this is only the most obvious theme of a short novel filled with a remarkable range of complicated ideas.

### PAPERBACK NON-FICTION

#### **King Charles II**

by Antonia Fraser  
Mandarin, £5.99

The author has great sympathy for her subject, quoting with approval Queen Victoria's view that, for all his moral failings, Charles II was one of the most attractive of her predecessors. This splendidly detailed but well ordered biography is the happy result.

#### **A long the riverrun**

by Richard Ellmann  
Penguin, £5.99

When he died, shortly after completing his masterly biography of Oscar Wilde, Ellmann was planning a collection of essays, articles and lectures. This is it, and very welcome too, for it contains insights and pertinent observations on many literary figures.

#### **A Particular Friendship**

by Dirk Bogarde  
Penguin, £3.99

In 1967 Dick Bogarde received a letter from an American woman who had once lived in the house that was then his. They corresponded frequently until her death five years later. This is an edited selection of his side of the exchange.

#### **Osbert**

by Richard Boston  
Fontana, £7.99

Affectionate biography of Osbert Lancaster, the man who kept his real self well hidden while sharply recording the absurdities of his world for more than 40 years in his pocket cartoons for the *Daily Express*.

#### **Eric Gill**

by Fiona MacCarthy  
Faber, £7.99

Eric Gill mastered the arts of the sculptor, wood engraver, letter cutter and typographer, but was less successful as a social reformer. The image of the devout Catholic family man that he portrayed during his life is exploded with shocking force in this revealing biography.

### PAPERBACK FICTION

#### **The Trick of It**

by Michael Frayn  
Penguin, £4.99

Witty and fast-moving story, told in pleasantly sardonic letters sent to a friend in Australia, of a university lecturer in English who specialises in the work of a famous English writer with whom he suddenly makes contact, loves and marries, to the ultimate discomfort of both.

#### **Fludd**

by Hilary Mantel  
Penguin, £4.99

An ambitious and very funny novel about a Roman Catholic community in a northern village in the 1950s, invaded by a curate who inspires remarkable changes in what seems suddenly to be an age of miracles.

#### **A History of the World in 10½ Chapters**

by Julian Barnes  
Picador, £4.99

A series of wittily-recounted, apparently disconnected events, fact and fiction, gradually becoming unified into an imaginative *tour de force* which should win the author valuable prizes.

#### **Mountains of the Moon**

by William Harrison  
Coronet, £3.99

Fictional account of the 19th-century expedition by Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke to find the source of the Nile. The two did not travel well together and their relationship deteriorated when they got home. Perhaps only a novelist can do justice to what at times is pure melodrama.

#### **Devices and Desires**

by P. D. James  
Faber, £6.99

Commander Dalgleish sets off for a holiday on a bleak Norfolk headland, with a ruined Benedictine abbey and a nuclear power station as its main architectural features, and finds a group of villagers every bit as menacing as their surroundings.





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